MARVEL® 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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43 OCT

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THE MUTANT MASSACRE IS COMING! SEE PAGE NINE!

MARVEL AGE®

BEVERLY HILLS DUCK

HAS HOWARD GONE HOLLYWOOD?

PLUS:

STAN LEE'S SOAP BOX

FRED HEMBECK

NEW TALENT

LABYRINTH MOVIE ADAPTATION

AND MORE! MORE! MORE!

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Believe it or not, we're still getting letters from you frantic ones out there raving about how great last year's MARVEL AGE ANNUAL was! Besides swelling our already big heads, your letters inspired us to work even harder on this year's double-sized extravaganza! Yep, MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #2 is out now, at your favorite comic book shop, or if you're really lucky, available free at some of the bigger comic book conventions held this summer!

And when I say that this year's annual is jam-packed with all sorts of great stuff, I mean JAM-PACKED! In fact, it's really two annuals in one! You see, if you flip the mag over, you've got the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL from 1963! What's that? You say MARVEL AGE wasn't even published back in 1963? Heck, don't think that's going to stop us from doing it anyway! To celebrate Marvel's twenty-fifth anniversary we decided it would be fun to look back to the early days of the Marvel Age of Comics and imagine what an issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE would've looked like published right before THE X-MEN and THE AVENGERS first hit the stands! You'll get to see such favorite regular features as The Coming Attractions, Fred Hembeck, Newswatch, the Marvel, er, I mean, the Atlas Age, as they would've been done back in '63, plus a special all-new introduction by **Stan (the Man) Lee** and reprinted for the very first time, from the rare first issue of THE MIGHTY MARVEL MESSENGER, a brief autobiography of **Jack (King) Kirby**!

And that's not all! Far from it, in fact! Other special features celebrating Marvel's Silver Anniversary include a profusely illustrated 100 Highlights from Marvel's first 25 years, and a special re-presentation of the classic comics short story about how Stan and Jack used to plot their magnificent Marvel masterpieces!

Perhaps last year's most popular feature was Marvel A to Z—a title by title preview of upcoming events in the mighty world of Marvel! Since we're no fools, we brought it back for this year and we decided to throw in all the Star and Epic titles as well! And to make it even extra special, it's illustrated with all new pages from your favorite Marvel titles done exclusively for MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #2! You'll see everything from **Dakota North** paper dolls to pin-up pages! We've got all-new material by **Steve Englehart, Louis Williams, Al Williamson, Louise Simonson, Tom Morgan, Art Nichols, Alan Kupperberg, Art Adams, Rick Leonardi, Terry Austin, Bill Mantlo, Jo Duffy, Kerry Gammill, Adam Blaustein, Ron Frenz, Joe Rubinstein, Dave Ross, Steve Mellor, Walt Simonson, John Bogdanove, Chris Warner, Al Milgrom, Roger Stern, John Buscema, Tom Palmer, Martha Thomases**, and **Tony Salmons**! Whew!

There're also two great covers, which dramatically show how our merry Marvel characters have changed (and multiplied) over the years, courtesy of artists Ron Frenz, **Richard Howell, Joe Sinnott** and Al Milgrom! There's even a special introduction by **Big Jim Shooter**, for cryin' out loud!

And if all that wasn't enough, there's also a title by title special preview of each and every NEW UNIVERSE book! So what are you waiting for?!

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Romita's Raiders

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Colorists

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Paul Becton, **Pat Brosseau**, **Harry Candelario**, **Rob Carosella**, **Dawn Geiger**, **Veronica Lawlor**, **Ken Lopez**, **Michael Maier**, **Bill Oakley**, **Bill Valley**
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Peter David
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MARVEL®

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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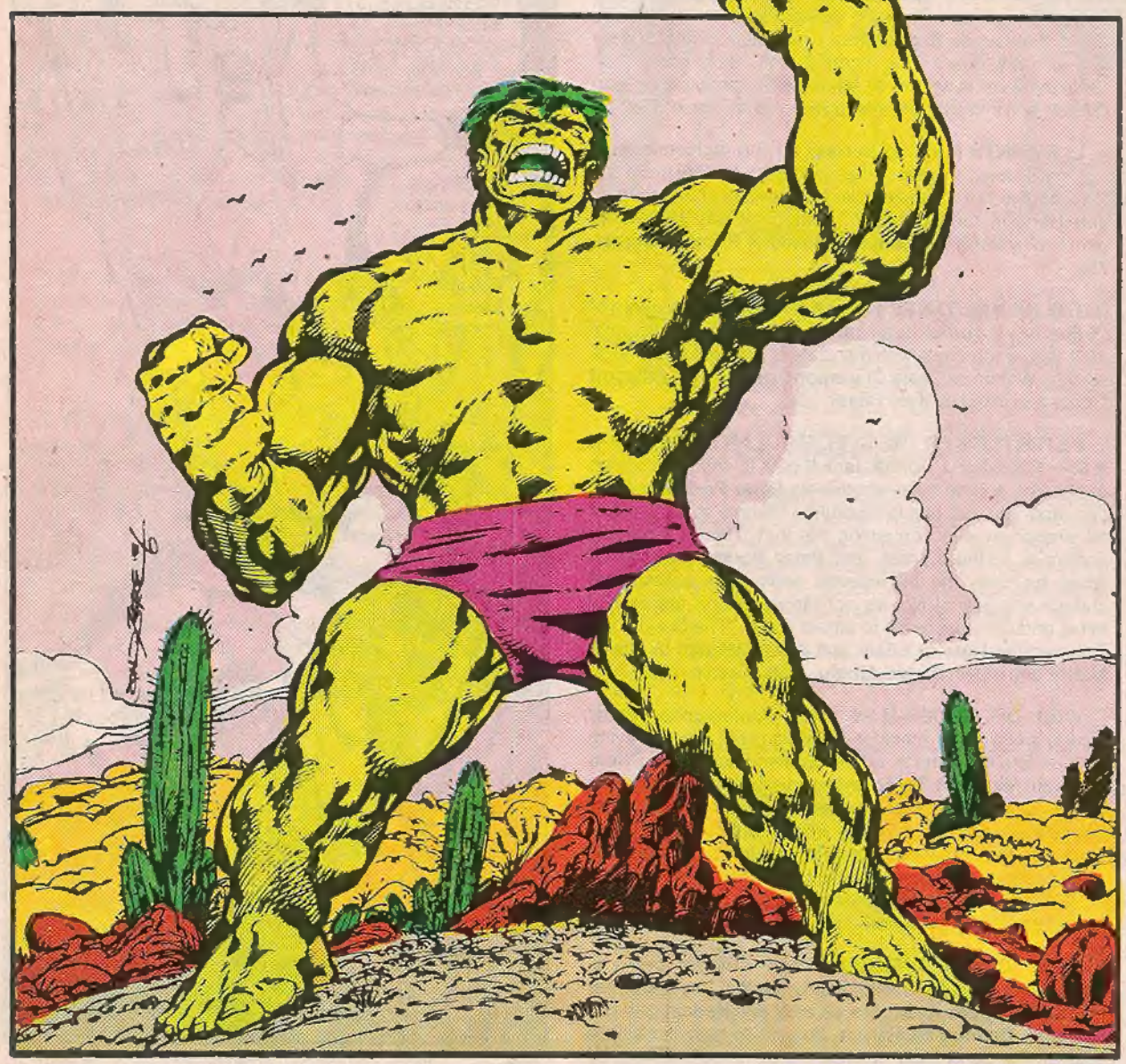
Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic and Star titles bearing a **November** cover date.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.
A **Graphic Novel** is a trade paperback-sized edition.
A **Direct Sales** title is availible only at selected outlets.
Shipping Date refers to the date the comics leave the printer.

The super-stars of comics join forces for the 25th Anniversary issue of **THE FANTASTIC FOUR! J. Jonah Jameson** asks the unthinkable question about **Spider-Man** in **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!** What happens in next month's **X-MEN** is going to forever change that team!

And that's just the beginning of what you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on anything! Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles for you today!



If you think the Hulk looks mad here, wait'll you see him when he meets the nastiest villain around, in this month's MARVEL FANFARE!

Titles Shipping *July 1*
On Sale *July 22*

☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER** #9—Can a person escape her destiny? **Dagger** believes she can. And in West Germany she tries to prove it by running away to join the circus! But **Cloak's** smashing of a drug lab threatens to destroy her fragile paradise. Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi** and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #236—**Nuke** wasn't the only super-soldier to be pushed over the edge. **The Black Widow** is on the trail of a second, and that trail leads her to Hell's Kitchen . . . and **Daredevil**! Together, the pair have to stop . . . **Hazzard**! "American Dreamer" is written by **Ann Nocenti** and drawn by **Barry Windsor-Smith**. 75¢.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE** #4—Not even the merciless tyrant, **Skeletor**, is ready for the new heroes of Eternia: **Rio-Blast** and **Spout Snout**! Together **Rio-Blast** and **Spout Snout** have vowed to defeat **Skeletor** and his evil allies, the savage **Snake-Men**! And defeat **Skeletor** they will—if only they'll stop fighting with each other first. "Snakes Alive" is written by **Mike Carlin**, penciled by **Ron Wilson** and inked by **Dennis Janke**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **LABYRINTH (Limited Series)** #1—A frightened teenage girl's quest to rescue her kidnaped brother from the trolls begins in this tension-filled adaptation of the gripping **Jim Henson** fantasy movie. Written by **Sid Jacobson**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. 75¢.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #45—A harmless child's game of "**X-Factor** vs. **Mutie**" turns into a real tragedy, in this poignant tale which deals with the real-life problem of teenage suicide. Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Jackson Guice** and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM** #12— Publisher **J. Jonah Jackal** gets to choose a queen of cheese, and he takes shutter-pig **Peter Porker** and the cub reporters with him to record the cheese-shaking event for propensity—or something like that. There's a cheesy underside to the contest, and **Peter Porker** discovers it when he finds the big cheese behind the scandalous cheese smuggling! No, it's not **Groo**, though there's certainly enough cheese dip to attract him in "The Gouda, the Bad and the Ugly, or Edam and Weep." Written by **Steve Mellor** and drawn by **Joe Albelo**. A Star Comic. 75¢.

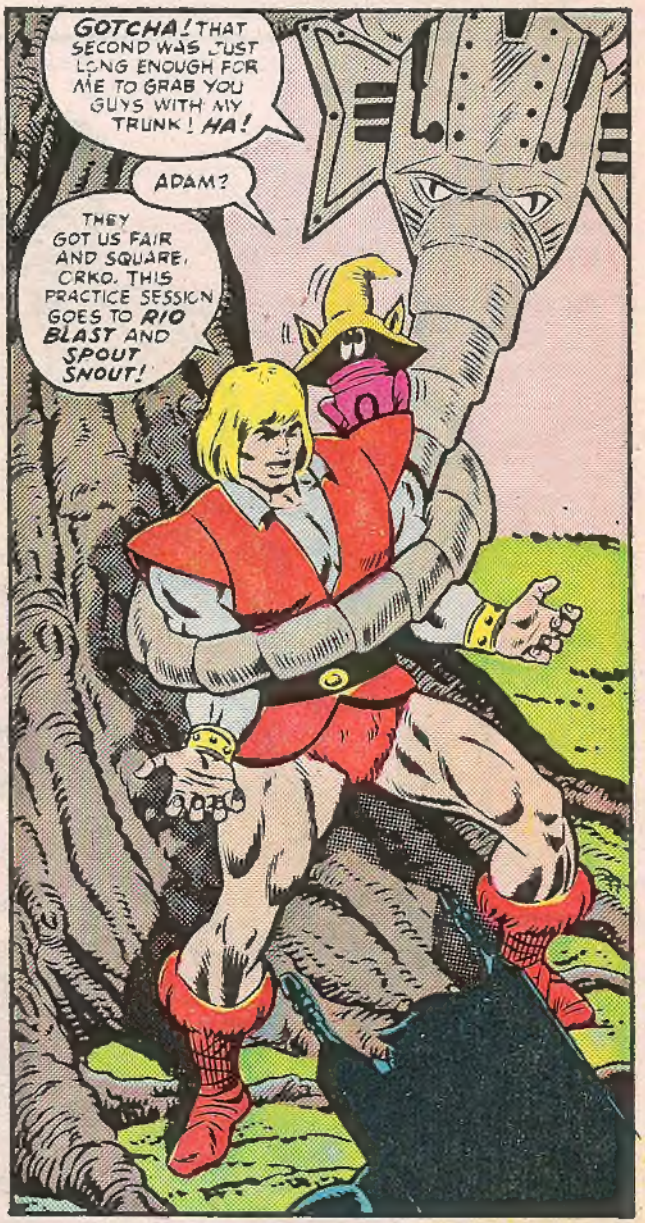
☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #20—Photographer **Peter Parker's** first assignment for NOW magazine has him flying high—literally! **Peter's** off to England to cover **Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's** speech on terrorism, and winds up trapped in the middle of a merciless terrorist/counter-terrorist battle for the **Prime Minister's** life! This story also features the debut of **Solo**—the bizarre anti-terrorist destined to become a new force in the Marvel Universe! Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Marc Silvestri** and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #14—**Tigra's** personal trauma threatens to wreck not only her life, but that of her fellow **West Coat Avengers** as well! Will **Hellcat** and her husband, **Daimon Hellstrom**, be able to help her before **Master Pandemonium** makes things worse? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE KING** #37—While **King Conan's** army pushes back the legions of the nations allied against him, **Conan's** long-lost son, **Taurus**, is ordered by the traitor **Crassus** to carry out a deadly task. And the web of romance threatens **Conan's** daughter in a way she least expects as she finds herself drawn ever closer to the son of the man her father slew! "The Sack of Belverus" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Judith Hunt** and inked by **Al Williamson**. $1.25.

☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS** #9—The galaxy is virtually limitless. The inhabited planets in it almost as plentiful as the stars. Which planets lie in **the Colonizers'** path of conquest? **Raader** and her vengeful band of **Swashbucklers** are determined to find out—and stop **the Colonizers** in their tracks! "Maps" is written by **Bill Mantlo** and guest drawn by **Colleen Doran**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

PRINCE ADAM and ORKO © 1986 Mattel, Inc.


GOTCHA! THAT SECOND WAS JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GRAB YOU GUYS WITH MY TRUNK! HA!
ADAM?
THEY GOT US FAIR AND SQUARE, ORKO. THIS PRACTICE SESSION GOES TO RIO BLAST AND SPOUT SNOUT!

Prince Adam meets the incredible Spout Snout and Rio Blast!

Titles Shipping *July 8*
On Sale *July 29*

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #40—**The Lord of Atlantis** takes a wife and abdicates his throne! That's right, **Namor, the Sub-Mariner**, marries **Marrina** and turns his back on Atlantis! Does this mean he will quit **the Avengers** as well? And what of all **the Atlanteans** who still remain loyal to him? Written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **David Ross** and inked by **Whilce Portacio**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #323—Over the last few issues, **Captain America's** faith in the American dream suffered its greatest blow—he'd been forced to take a life! Can **Cap's** faith be renewed after what he has just experienced? Introducing the incredible **Super Patriot**! "Renewal" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Neary** and inked by **John Beatty**. 75¢.

☐ **EWOKS** #10—The unusual cross-over that began in **DROIDS** #4 concludes in the prehistoric past of **the Ewoks'** world of Endor! How can **the Ewoks, R2D2** and **C-3PO** stop the destruction happening in their own time when they're faced with their own imminent destruction in the far past? "The Demons of Endor" is written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **John Romita** and **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Al Williamson**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #21—Everyone's favorite barbarian gets mixed up with a bunch of "Witches and Warlocks." By **Sergio Aragones**, with kibitzing by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. 75¢.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #12—If you hate cats, and even if you like cats, you'll love what happens when **Heathcliff** is catnaped by aliens planning an invasion of the Earth! All we'll say here is the results are cat-astrophic! "Spaced-Out Cat" is written by **Angelo De Cesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #282—Is **Spider-Man** a mutant? Publisher **J. Jonah Jameson** hires the mutant-hunting **X-Factor** to find out! "X-Factor" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi** and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #12—The final issue (for now) of the **FF INDEX** is as jam-packed as ever, with color cover reproductions, complete story synopses, and complete credits for each issue's story and art. Compiled by **George Olshevsky**. $1.25.

☐ **BOZZ CHRONICLES** #5—An evil English student threatens to destroy the peace (and a good many other things) of an African nation. What can an alien from another planet and his bohemian band of cohorts do to stop him? Plenty! "The Cobblestone Jungle" is written by **David Michelinie** and drawn by **Bret Blevins**. An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

Wicket meets R2-D2 and C-3PO in EWOKS!

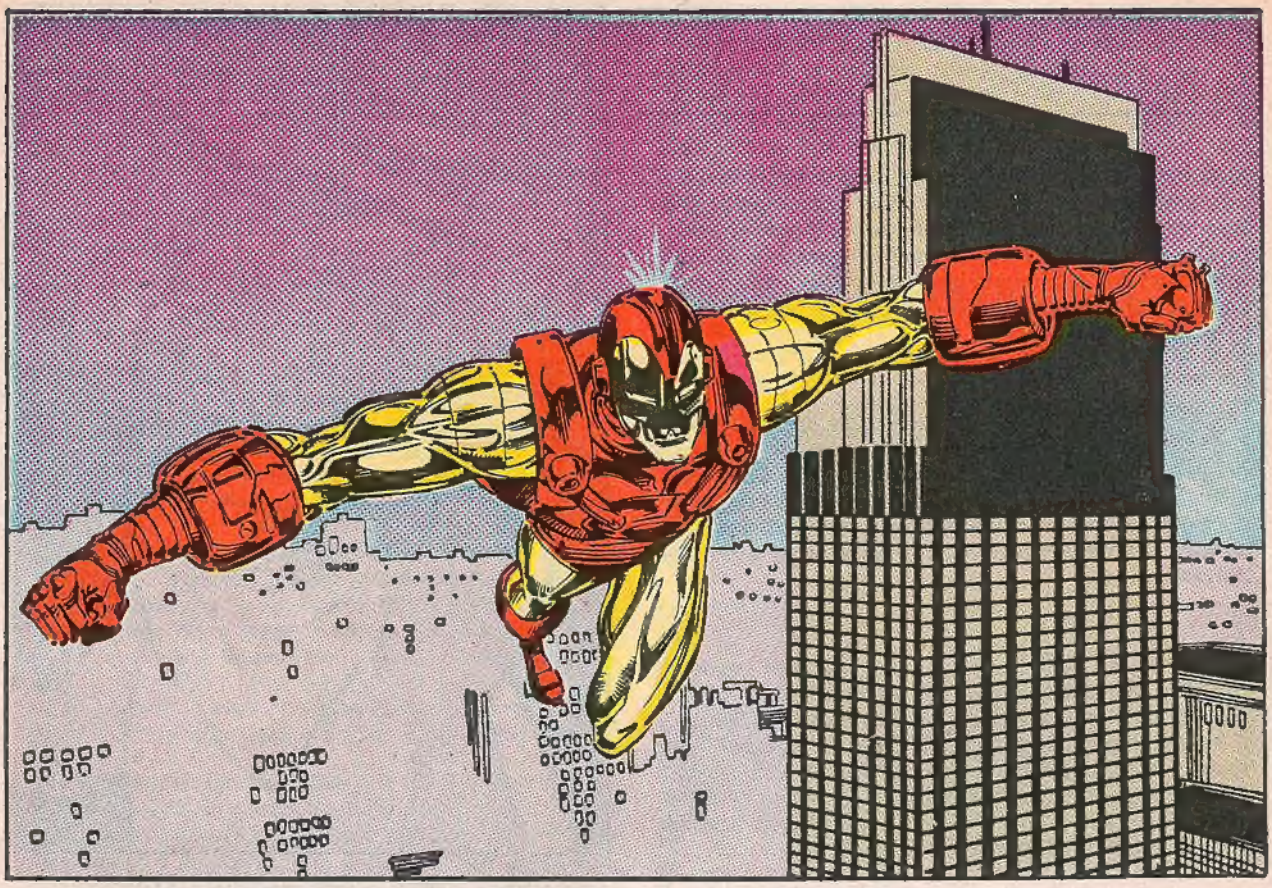
☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION** #12—Heroes, villains, hideouts, weapons and more are included in this latest volume of reference-file facts for both the serious Marvel comics scholar and the fan who wants to be in the know. Plus: up-to-date delineations of each character drawn by the top Marvel artists, each inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. Written by **Peter Sanderson** and **Mark Gruenwald**. $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #129—Freebooting on the high seas suddenly turns into a desperate, intrigue-riddled battle for survival as **Conan** and his pirates fight to prevent the nations of Argos and Zingara from forming an alliance to crush the pirates! Written by **Don Kraar** and drawn by **Gary Kwapisz**. A Marvel Magazine. $1.50.

Titles Shipping *July 15*
On Sale *August 5*

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #44—The dawn of the New Universe is here—and **MARVEL AGE** has the story! Also, we take a look at the **TRANSFORMERS MOVIE ADAPTATION**, the **TRANSFORMERS DIGEST**, and **G.I. JOE vs THE TRANSFORMERS**! Plus: Stan's Soapbox! Hembeck's Page! Star Spotlight! Coming Attractions! A letters column with a zany title! And even more!! How can we do it? Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #273—The new **Baron Zemo** forms **the New Masters of Evil**! Their mission: destroy **the Avengers**! Will **the New Masters of Evil** do it? The bookies say yes, because the bad guys outnumber **the Avengers**, 3 to 1! Written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.



The Iron Man of the year 2020 guest stars in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL—watch out, Spidey!

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #188—Young **King Jahil** is dead, and **Conan**, the man who swore to protect him, goes on a rampage of revenge! Meanwhile, **Conan's** ageless nemesis, **the Devourer of Souls**, lays the foundation for a far-reaching plot that will not only entrap **Conan**, but some of the greatest nations in the ancient Hyborean world as well! "The Killing Season" is written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Ernie Chan**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #53—The impossible has happened! The terrorist army of **Cobra** has seized the Pit—headquarters of the **Joes**! Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Rod Whigham** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #325—Doctors and scientists claim that **Bruce Banner** is cured of ever being **the Hulk** again. But if that is true, then *what* kind of hideous green man-monster is ripping apart the desert? "The New Hulk" is written by **Al Milgrom**, penciled by **Steve Geiger** and inked by **Dennis Janke**. 75¢.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #193—Because you demanded it—the debut of the classic MARVEL TEAM-UP stories written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Dave Hunt** begins this issue! And when we say classic, we do *mean* classic! "Fire and Ice" teams **Spider-Man** with the original **Yellowjacket** and **the Wasp**! Reprinted from MARVEL TEAM-UP #59. 75¢.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #10—**The Muppet Babies** take a whirlwind trip through Weatherland when the madcap **Muppet Baby** inventors **Bunsen** and **Beaker** create the ultimate weather machine! "The Incredible Weather Machine" is written by **Stan Kay** and drawn by **Marie Severin**. A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **THE NAM** #2—Private **Ed Marks** and the men of the 23rd Infantry learn more about the truth of life and death in the steaming jungles of Viet Nam. One glimpse at this story, and you'll see why we say you've never read a *real* war comic until you've read **NAM**! Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden** and inked by **Armando Gil**. 75¢.

☐ **X-MEN** #211—Miss this, and you'll miss the most important mutant saga this year! The X-Men clash with the death-dealing **Marauders** in the labyrinthine **Morlock** tunnels! And it's a battle that cuts the ranks of **the X-Men** *in half!* "Massacre" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** and inked by **Dan Green**. 75¢.

☐ **THE MARVEL SAGA** #12—This latest chapter in the linear history of the Marvel Universe features some of the most action-packed first confrontations ever! **The Fantastic Four** vs. first **the Molecule Man**, and then **the Hate Monger**; **Spider-Man** tackles **the Enforcers** for the first time, and then has his second confrontation with **Doctor Octopus**; **Thor** battles the sinuous **Cobra** for the first time, **the Avengers** battle both **the Hulk** and **the Sub-Mariner**, **the X-Men** square off against **the Blob**! Plus: the Marvel Age return of **Captain America**, including his origin! Written by **Peter Sanderson**, art by **Kirby**, **Ditko** and more! $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #20—It's the movie "Terminator" with an even harder-hitting twist when **the Iron Man** of 2020 takes a blast into the past to catch a terrorist! Not only does **Spidey** encounter a bad case of future shock, *you* also get the amazing origin of the **Iron Man** of 2020! "Man of the Year" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Beachum** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.25.

☐ **ELEKTRA (Limited Series)** #2—**S.H.I.E.L.D.** cyborgs play a life-and-death game of cat-and-mouse with the assassin **Elektra.** The question is—who is the cat? "The Ugly Man" is written by **Frank Miller** and painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz.** An Epic comic. Hudson paper. Direct sales only. For Mature Readers. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE** #29—This issue we present a bizarre story of **the Incredible Hulk,** in an equally strange format—each page is a single large picture! The story chronicles **the jade giant's** meeting with a Marvel villain who seems to be just about everywhere these days! Written and drawn by **John Byrne.** Plus: a slice of life **Captain America** tale serves as the back-up. Baxter paper. Direct Sales Only. $1.50.

Titles Shipping *July 22*
On Sale *August 12*

☐ **CARE BEARS** #7—How can anyone have a good time when **Sad Solly,** the saddest man in the world, is around? **Solly** is so wrapped up in his gloom, can even **the Care Bears** chase his blues away? "The Saddest Man in the World" is written and penciled by **Howie Post** and inked by **Roberta Edelman.** A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #16—**Cutter** and **Skywise** learn of the bizarre tragedy that has fallen upon their tribe of **Wolfriders!** Does this mean the end of **Cutter's** quest—or will it lead to its incredible completion? Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and drawn by **Wendy Pini.** An Epic comic. 75¢.

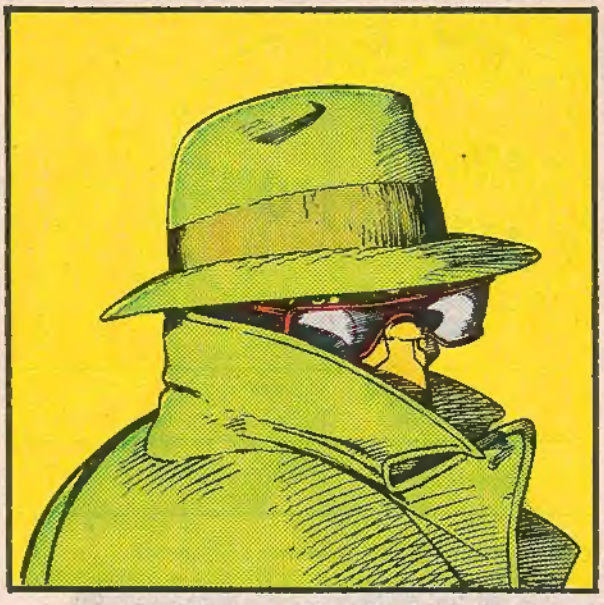
☐ **IRON MAN** #212—**Iron Man** faces his cruelest foe—**Ironmonger!** Guest-starring the dashing hero of the Thirties: **Dominic Fortune!** "Precious Legacy" is produced by the guest-team of writer **Danny Fingeroth,** penciler **Dwayne Turner** and inker **Scott Williams.** 75¢.

☐ **MADBALLS (Limited Series)** #3—Have the wacky **Madballs** finally met their match? The evil **Dr. Frankenbeans** claims they have! And so might you when you see **the *Badballs,*** a trio of the meanest and most gruesome bowling ball monsters ever to roll down a lane! Their aim is not to hit a strike, but to destroy **the Madballs!** "Attack of the Badballs" is written by **Dave Manak,** penciled by **Howie Post** and inked by **Roberta Edelman.** A Star comic. 75¢.

☐ **PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #120—Nobody is crazy enough to don a home-made **Spidey** costume and try to impersonate **Spider-Man!** That's what **Spidey** thought—until now! You'll never believe what happens in the climax of "The Enemy Within." Produced by the guest-team of writer and penciler **Larry Lieber** and inker **Vince Colletta.** 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #10—In this gut-wrenching tie-in with **X-MEN** #211, **the Angel** selflessly returns to **the Morlocks** tunnels to save his friends. But is there anything left to save—or will he become the latest victim in the bloodbath? "Angel's Story" is written by **Louise Simonson,** penciled by **Walter Simonson** and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** 75¢.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #3—In the aftermath of **Thunderbird's** death, what will happen to **the new X-Men?** The reprint of the stunning tale from X-MEN #95 is written by **Chris Claremont,** penciled by **Dave Cockrum** and inked by **Sam Grainger.** Plus: "Mourning," a heretofore untold story about the funeral of **Thunderbird** written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Bolton.** 32 pages. No ads. $1.00.



At last! The Thing has rejoined the Fantastic Four—or is that Fantastic Five?!

☐ **THOR** #373—**Thor** discovers the astonishing truth about the incredible gift bestowed on him by **Hela** goddess of death—and the gift's even more devastating consequences! Written by **Walter Simonson,** penciled by **Sal Buscema** and inked by **Albret Blevinson.** 75¢.

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #22—Make way or be run over by the ruinous **Stunticons—Decepticon** cars that are out to wreck the reputation of **the Autobots**—and anything else that gets in their way! Written by **Bob Budiansky,** penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey.** 75¢.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #296—Forget the fanfare! Forget the superlatives! This is *the* comic of the year: the 25th anniversary issue of **the FANTASTIC FOUR** and of Marvel Comics! Plotted by **Jim Shooter,** scripted by **Stan Lee** and penciled by **Barry Windsor-Smith, Ron Frenz, Kerry Gammill, Al Milgrom, John Buscema, Mark Silvestri** and **Jerry Ordway** and inked by **Barry Windsor-Smith, Vince Colletta, Steve Leialoha, Klaus Janson, Al Gordon, Joe Rubinstein** and **Bob Wiacek.** Wait until you see the 64 page story they cooked up! It's a winner! $1.50.

☐ **SAVAGE TALES** #7—When editor **Larry Hama** told us this issue is not for wimps or geeks, he wasn't kidding—the tales are like a shotgun blast to the gut! All we dare tell you are the creators involved: **John Severin, John Arcudi** and **Vince Waller, Dick Ayers** and **Andy Kubert,** and **Gray Morrow.** If you want to find out *what* they produced, grab your helmet and flak jacket first! A Marvel Magazine. $1.50.

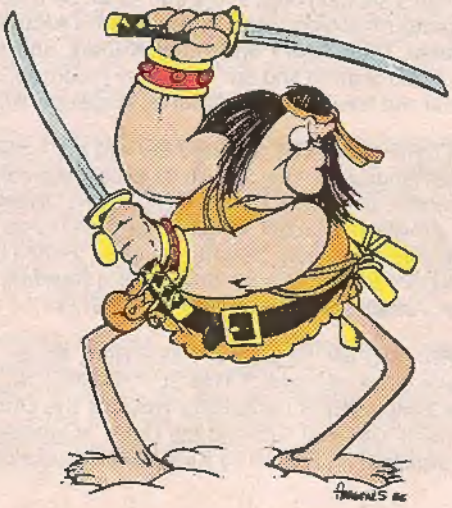
☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series)** #3—Starkey Enterprises lands a contract to build an exclusive resort in a remote section of Alaska. But as work begins, **Steelgrip Starkey,** America's hardest working hero, discovers that not all dangers come from "Natural Causes." Written by **Al Weiss** and **Jim Sherman** and drawn by **Jim Sherman.** An Epic comic. Direct sales only. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL** #41—Here he is—the duck you've been waiting for! This SUPER SPECIAL presents our adaptation of Lucasfilm's **Howard the Duck**—starring you-know-who! "Howard the Duck" is adapted by **Danny Fingeroth** and drawn by **Kyle Baker.** Baxter paper. $2.50.

MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping August

DAKOTA NORTH #4—by **Thomases** and **Salmons.**
DAREDEVIL #237—by **Englehart, Williams,** and **Williamson.**
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #2—by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
LABYRINTH #2—by **Jacobson, J. Buscema** and **Tanghal.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #46—by **Claremont, Guice** and **Baker.**
THUNDERCATS #7—by **Conway, Delbo** and **Sinnott.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #21—by **Michelinie, Silvestri** and **Baker.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #15—by **Englehart, Milgrom** and **Sinnott.**
MOONSHADOW #10—by **DeMatteis** and **Muth.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #41—by **Mantlo, Ross** and **Portacio.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #324—by **Gruenwald, Neary** and **Beatty.**
DOCTOR STRANGE #80—by **Gillis, Warner** and **Emberlin.**
GROO THE WANDERER #22—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
HEATHCLIFF #13—by **Gallagher, Kremer** and **Roettcher.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #283—by **DeFalco, Frenz** and **Breeding.**
THE TRANSFORMERS MOVIE #1—by **Macchio, Perlin, Akin** and **Garvey.**
POWER PACK #27—by **L. Simonson, Bogdanove** and **Wiacek.**
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #130—by **Owsley, Kwapisz** and **Chan.**
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #45
THE AVENGERS #274—by **Stern, J. Buscema** and **Palmer.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #189—by **Owsley, J. Buscema** and **Chan.**
G.I. JOE #54—by **Hama, Whigham** and **Mushynsky.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #326—by **Milgrom.**
MARVEL TALES #194—by **Claremont, Byrne** and **Hunt.**
THE NAM #3—by **Murray, Golden** and **Gil.**
X-MEN #212—by **Claremont, Romita, Jr.** and **Green.**
THE MARVEL SAGA #13—by **Sanderson.**
ELEKTRA #3—by **Miller** and **Sienkiewicz.**
DROIDS #5—by **Manak** and **Romita, Sr.**
ELFQUEST #17—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**



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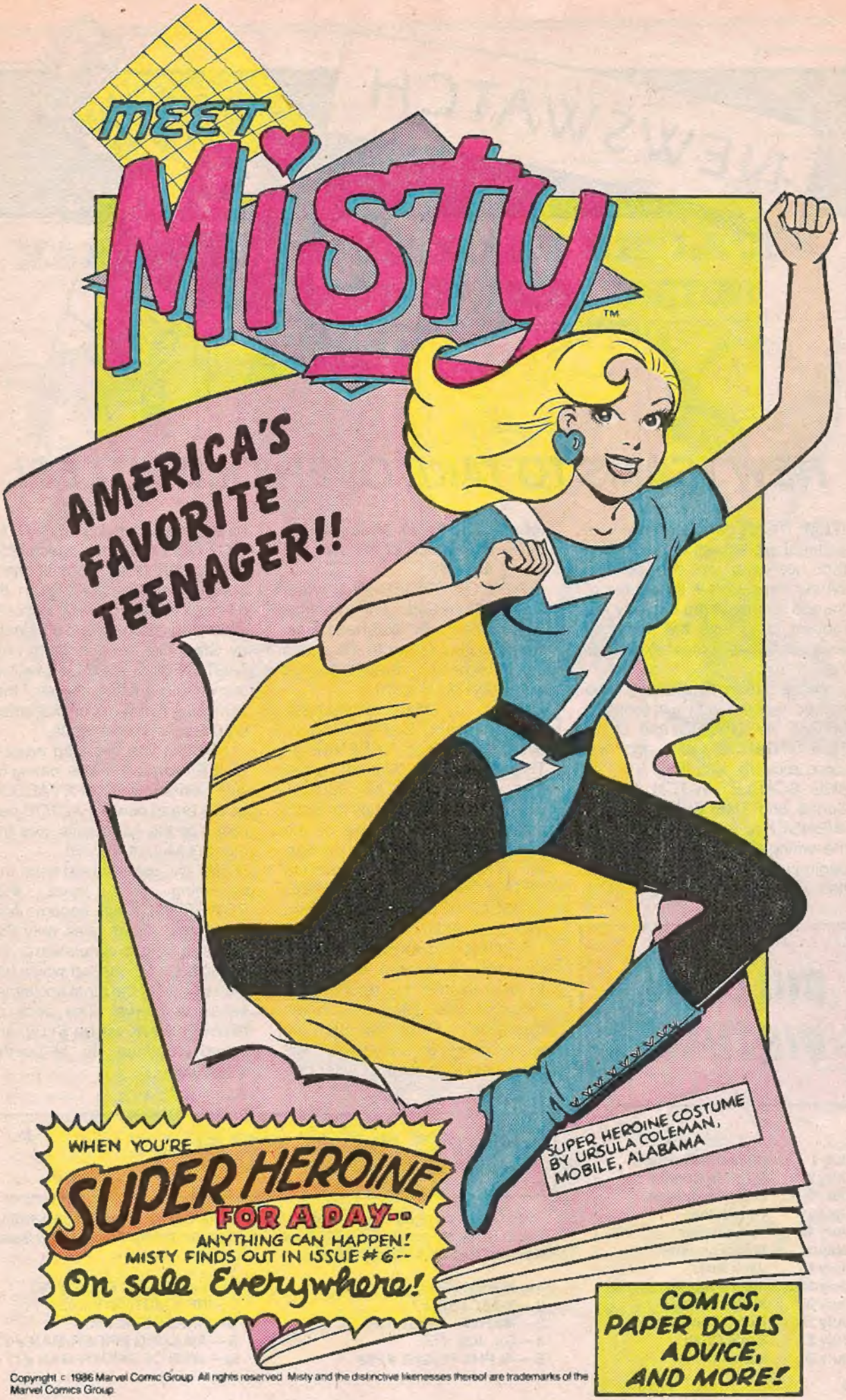
Titles Shipping September

CLOAK AND DAGGER #10—by **Mantlo, Leonardi** and **Austin.**
DAREDEVIL #233—by **Englehart, Lewis** and **Williamson.**
DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH #1—by **Harris, Saviuk** and **Fredericks.**
MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #5—by **Carlin, Wilson** and **Janke.**
THE NEW MUTANTS #47—by **Claremont, Guice** and **Baker.**
PETER PORKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #13—by **Mellor** and **Albelo.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #22—by **Michelinie, Silvestri** and **Baker.**
WEST COAST AVENGERS #16—by **Englehart, Milgrom** and **Sinnott.**
CONAN THE KING #38—by **Kraar, Hunt** and **Nichols.**
X-MEN ANNUAL #10—by **Claremont.**
SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUKCLERS #10—by **Mantlo** and **Isherwood.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #42—by **Mantlo, Ross** and **Portacio.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #325—by **Gruenwald, Neary** and **Beatty.**
EWOKS #11—by **Manak, Kremer** and **Williamson.**
GROO THE WANDERER #23—by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #284—by **DeFalco, Frenz** and **Breeding.**
THE TRANSFORMERS MOVIE #2—by **Macchio, Perlin, Akin** and **Garvey.**
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN #1—compiled by **Olshevsky.**
THE BOZZ CHRONICLES #6—by **Michelinie** and **Blevins.**
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #131—by **Owsley, Kwapisz** and **Chan.**
DRACULA Graphic Novel—by Green.
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #46
THE AVENGERS #275—by **Stern, J. Buscema** and **Palmer.**
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #190—by **Owsley, J. Buscema** and **Chan.**
G.I. JOE #55—by **Hama, Whigham** and **Mushynsky.**
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #327—by **Milgrom.**
LABYRINTH #3—by **Hama, Whigham, Mushynsky** and **Tanghal.**
HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #2—by **Fingeroth** and **Baker.**
MARVEL TALES #195—by **Claremont, Byrne** and **Hunt.**
MUPPET BABIES #11—by **Kay** and **Severin.**
THE NAM #4—by **Murray, Golden** and **Gil.**
X-MEN #213—by **Claremont, Romita, Jr.** and **Green.**
THE MARVEL SAGA #14—by **Sanderson.**
ELEKTRA #4—by **Miller** and **Sienkiewicz.**
MARVEL FANFARE #30
CARE BEARS #8—by **Kay, Post** and **Edelman.**
ELFQUEST #18—by **W.** and **R. Pini.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #298—by **Stern, J. Buscema** and **S. Buscema.**
IRON MAN #214—by **Michelinie.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #122—by **David, Buckler** and **McLeod.**
THOR #375—by **W. Simonson** and **S. Buscema.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #24—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin** and **Garvey.**
X-FACTOR #12—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson** and **Rubinstein.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #5—by **Claremont, Cockrum** and **McLeod.**
SAVAGE TALES #8—cover by **Larkin.**
STEELGRIP STARKEY #5—by **Weiss** and **Sherman.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #297—by **Stern, J. Buscema** and **S. Buscema.**
IRON MAN #213—by **Michelinie.**
PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #121—by **David, Buckler** and **McLeod.**
THOR #374—by **W. Simonson** and **S. Buscema.**
TOP DOG #11—by **Caragonne, Kremer** and **Roettcher.**
THE TRANSFORMERS #23—by **Budiansky, Perlin, Akin** and **Garvey.**
X-FACTOR #11—by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson** and **Rubinstein.**
CLASSIC X-MEN #4—by **Claremont, Cockrum** and **McLeod.**
ALIEN LEGION #16—by **Zelenetz, Stroman** and **Emberlin.**
STEELGRIP STARKEY #4—by **Weiss, Mayerik** and **Sherman.**
HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #1—by **Fingeroth** and **Baker.**



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NEWSWATCH

NEW TEAMS TO TAKE OVER OLD TITLES!

ITEM: There's been a whirlwind of editorial excitement in the Bullpen that not even *we* can believe! What's causing it is that some of the top talents in the industry are moving in to take the helms of some of Marvel's most exciting titles.

Writer **Steve Englehart**, who gained renown with his scripting of THE AVENGERS and DOCTOR STRANGE years ago and more recently with THE VISION AND SCARLET WITCH Limited Series and THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, will be taking over the writing chores on DAREDEVIL beginning with issue #237. Steve has promised to keep the gritty tone set by **Frank Miller**, and to throw in a bunch of his own surprises as well!

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN writer **David Michelinie**, while continuing to recount **Ol' Webhead's** adventures, will return to the series that launched his career at Marvel with IRON MAN #215.

Writer **J. Marc DeMatteis**, whose recent GARGOYLE Limited Series and GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE Graphic Novel (not to mention his MOONSHADOW Limited Series for Epic) established him as one of the most innovative writers in comics, will be adding his unique touch to PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN starting with issue #125.

CONAN and AVENGERS penciler **John Buscema** will, after a 10 year hiatus, be returning to "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine" as not only penciler, but inker as well. Everyone will get a sneak preview of what can be expected from John in FANTASTIC FOUR #296, the special 25th Anniversary issue. John is one of seven pencilers working on the 64-page story plotted by Editor-in-Chief **Jim Shooter** and dialogued by **Stan Lee** himself. With FANTASTIC FOUR #297, John will assume full artistic chores, thus launching a new era of excitement on Marvel's premier book.

And this late breaking news—**Walt Simonson** will be joining his wife **Louise**, writer of X-FACTOR, as the brand new X-FACTOR penciler. For the full details, see this month's Mutant Report!

ITEM: We just received word that beginning with issue #26, POWER PACK will become Marvel's latest direct sales only title, concentrating its circulation on the comic book fan market which had made it one of the most acclaimed series at Marvel. The price on POWER PACK will be $1.00, and it will continue its bi-monthly schedule.

BULLPEN BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Julianna Ferriter
July 9	Virginia Romita
July 9	Craig Anderson
July 11	Ron Zalme
July 13	Tom Palmer
July 14	Mike Esposito
July 15	Jack Abel
July 23	Mike Vosburg
July 23	Kelley Jones
July 26	Harry Candelario
July 27	Ernie Chan
July 28	Ian Akin

THE TOP TEN

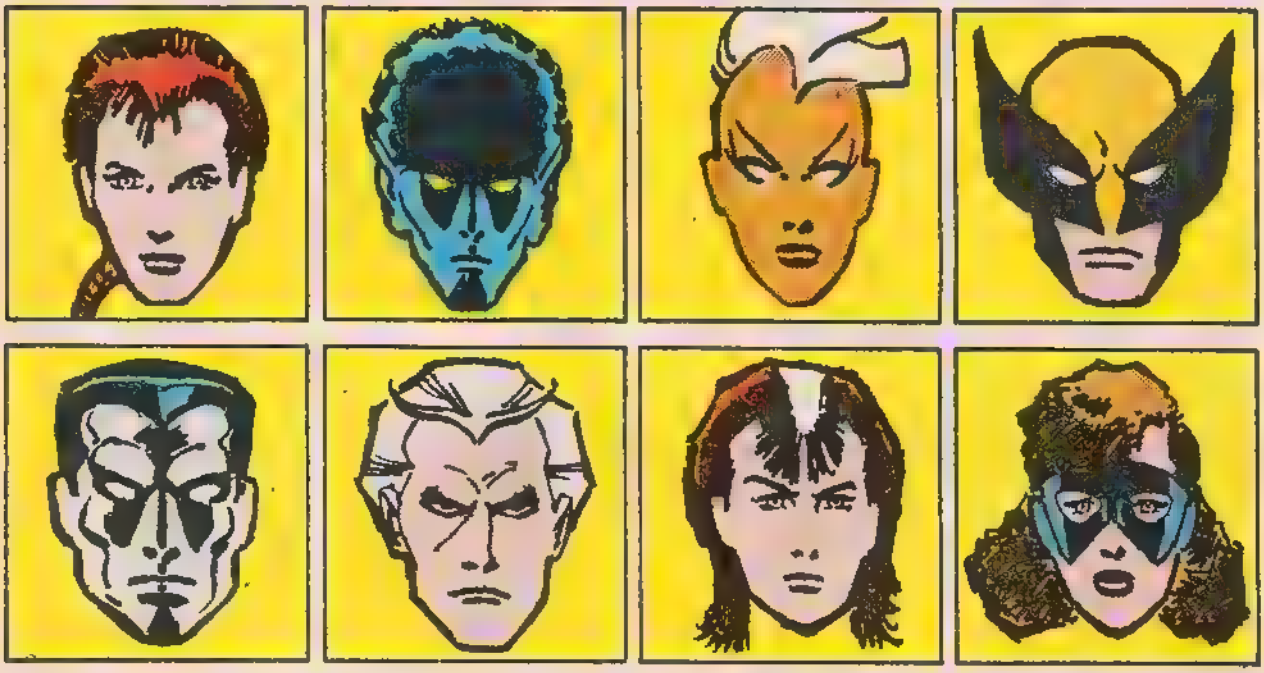
It's time once again for the Marvel Top Ten! This is a list of the ten best selling Direct Sales titles for the month of April, and it's provided by **the Amazing Carol Kalish**, Director of Specialty Sales.

1—**X-MEN #208**
2—**X-FACTOR #7**
3—**MARVEL UNIVERSE #9**
4—**G.I. JOE #50**
5—**ALPHA FLIGHT #293**
6—**FANTASTIC FOUR #293**
7—**NEW MUTANTS #42**
8—**DAREDEVIL #233**
9—**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #279**
10—**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #17**

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 2 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 2

HALF THE X-MEN TO BE REPLACED AFTER MUTANT MASSACRE!



As a result of the story starting in X-MEN #210, the X-Men's line-up will be changing significantly—in fact, half the team will be replaced. We aren't saying just who's in that half, but some of the characters who may be replacing them include the Dazzler, Havok, Psylocke, and Longshot, fresh from his appearance in X-MEN ANNUAL #10 (which is the sequel to NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #3).

The story will run through X-MEN #210, to X-FACTOR #9, to X-MEN #211, to X-FACTOR #10, and finally to POWER PACK #27. The X-Factor and Power Pack segments of the story will be written by Louise Simonson, and this story promises to change mutantdom forever! The tale revolves around a massacre, and, as Chris Claremont put it, "The massacre will introduce the new team of villains, the Marauders. They work for the X-Men's new major villain, Mister Sinister." While we aren't going to give away just who gets massacred, we will say that there is an awful lot of them!

WHO WILL REPLACE THEM?

Simonsons To Take Over X-FACTOR

There's some big news to report this month, so let's get right to it. Another Simonson is coming aboard the increasingly popular X-FACTOR series. Joining Louise to further chronicle the adventures of the eldest team of mutant heroes is —are you ready for this?— Walt! That's right, writer Louise Simonson has been joined by her husband, Walt Simonson, in order to bring us the continuing story of Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Beast, Angel and Iceman.

Walt, who isn't exactly a stranger to readers of Marvel's most popular comics, is excited to be working on the series. "So far, we're both enjoying working together," explained Louise. The new creative team will debut this very month in issue #10 of X-FACTOR.

"Walt dropped the art chores on THOR (he's still writing the series) to try his hand at some other books," said Louise. "Somewhere between drawing two issues of DAREDEVIL, writing THOR, and finishing up THE ETERNALS Limited Series, among other projects, Walt will begin drawing X-FACTOR."

How did this long-overdue pairing of what seems to be the perfect team come about? X-Factor editor Bob Harras explained that Walt expressed interest in the book if the art chores ever opened up. They did, and Bob called him and offered him the job. "I think it's great to have both of them together on the book," said Bob. "The two of them should come up with more wild ideas than most of us can handle."

"This is our first project as writer and artist," said Louise. "We've worked together, though. I've edited some of his work in the past and we're not exactly strangers! He helps with the plots on the book, but that's not really something new for us. He's helped me with other plots before, even on books he wasn't involved with. And I've helped him. We've always assisted each other in this way, throwing ideas off one another and so on. Now it's just for the same project."

What attracted Walt to X-FACTOR? Louise relayed the question to her husband, interested in the answer herself. In the background, Walt's response was loud and clear. "*You*, darling," he said. Louise laughed. "Now how about giving a *good* answer, hmm?" "I thought it would be fun," he said.

Now those are two very good answers.

The Simonsons also have big plans for the team. Coming up in the near future, X-Factor will be getting new costumes. This major change could come about as early as issue #12. Watch for Cyke and company to be showing off the new duds any time now.

X-FACTOR #12 will also have more on the little mutant girl, Boom Boom. She's settling into the X-Factor complex and making more trouble for the heroes than a whole legion of bad guys! "She's a juvenile delinquent who's lots of tróuble," explained Louise, "and that's lots of fun for me to write about."

Warren (the Angel) will lose his fortune, simply because he hasn't been paying attention to his own financial situation. Could the Freedom Force being out to get him also play a slight part in the process? Could be...

Speaking of problems, Scott's is getting worse. He's convincing himself that Jean *is* Madelyne *is* Phoenix. Sound confusing? Think how poor Scott feels. He's deluded himself into believing that Phoenix never died. She pretended to be Madelyne and now is pretending that Phoenix never died. She pretended to be Madelyne and now is pretending to be Jean. The once stable force behind the X-Men and X-Factor is slowly going off the deep end, and the only way he can reconcile the rotten thing he's done —namely, leaving his wife and child—is to delude himself into believing these women are all the same person. Watch for further developments!

Coming Soon: PHOENIX Limited Series

She's from a future that may or may not be ours. She's living in a past that isn't quite the way she remembers it. She's Rachel Summers, daughter of Scott Summers and Jean Grey, Cyclops and Marvel Girl of X-FACTOR! But her mother was Phoenix, and in the Marvel Universe Scott and Jean aren't married. In fact, Scott has a son by his wife Madelyne! These are definitely not the average problems that face most young women. But then, Rachel isn't exactly average.

This is the background for THE PHOENIX Limited Series, written by Chris Claremont and drawn by Rick Leonardi and Dan Green. Rachel, having retreated to current time to escape from a grim anti-mutant future, has joined the X-Men and is using her telepathic powers as the new Phoenix. But since she adopted her mother's name in battle against the Beyonder, nothing has gone right.

The plot of the Limited Series deals with the dread villainess Spiral (remember her from LONGSHOT and, more recently, the Freedom Force?) and lots of psychological ramifications and complications. It examines how Rachel is coping with being in a past that resembles —but isn't quite —the one that preceded her world. She will meet Power Pack in the first issue and see little Franklin Richards. In her time, Rachel is in love with a grown Franklin! Here he is a child, and she is much older than him, and this situation will cause her to do some serious soul searching.

There will also be lots of cameos and guest appearances, lots of flash-forwards, and lots of fantastic visuals by Leonardi and Green. We'll have more information on the Limited Series as its publication approaches, so stay tuned.

-Bill Slavicsek

COLOSSUS ARTIST TREKS TO RUSSIA

In the interest of artistic accuracy, the COLOSSUS Limited Series by Chris Claremont and Rick Leonardi is being postponed for a few months. The reason is that in order to present a more accurate and realistic interpretation of the Soviet Union, Rick will be taking a trip to Irkutsk!

In the tradition of the X-MEN's creative team's trip to France last year, Rick will be taking in the sights of the Soviet countryside to get a feel of the atmosphere to add even more punch to his visuals.

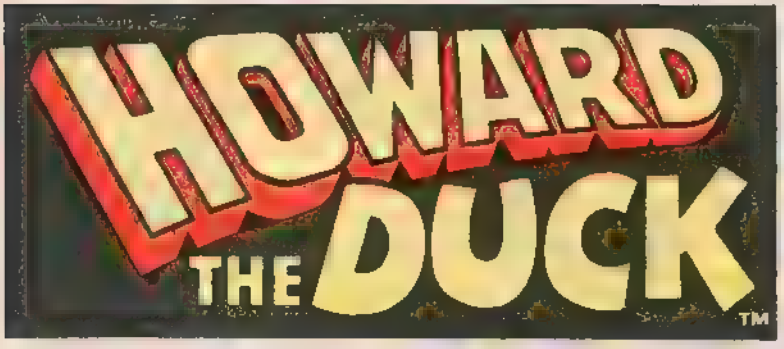
The series will deal with Peter's long-overdue return to the Soviet Union to visit his family and decide exactly where his powers would be most useful. We'll learn more about the place where Peter and Illyana grew up, and more about the people they left behind to become X-Men.

"We don't know much about where Colossus and his family are from, just the little bit that's been revealed over the years," said Rick. "I hope I'll find some things that will give Chris some ideas."

Rick is looking forward to his trip, which will also include stops in such exotic locales as Japan, and others. "I'll take dozens of photos and bring back lots of documentation to use in the series," said Rick. "We could do it now and show a Siberia that includes all of the common cliches, but I hope this trip will provide us with the inspiration to do something a little different, to reach a little farther."

"I'd like the COLOSSUS Limited Series to be a little more than just entertainment," said Rick. "I'd like it to be a little educational as well." We know it will be worth the wait.

Brian Bolland's cover to HOWARD THE DUCK #33.



Living it up — in a world he never made!

Howard the Duck is back, after spending the last few years in a self-imposed semi-retirement. And he's back in a big way, with a major motion picture from Lucasfilm, a comics adaptation of the movie, and a brand new issue of HOWARD THE DUCK due out this summer. It looks like the duck is taking the world he never made by storm. Howard is on his way to becoming a major film star, while still keeping busy in his original medium, comics.

Unfortunately, Howard is as reluctant to speak to the press as he ever was. Over the past few weeks, Howard's been staying at the Bel-Air Hotel, near Los Angeles, while his film has been in post-production. Reporters, myself included, have tried time and time again to speak with him, to get some kind of comment on the film, or anything, in fact. He speaks with no one. All visitors are screened by a large, beer-guzzling man called **Ed**. It is clear that Howard misses his adopted hometown of Cleveland—the gaudiness of Hollywood and the vanity of its stars have grated on his nerves, and there are tales floating around about nasty cracks he's flung at starlets, shouting matches with friends and strangers alike, and even one or two fistfights at local cocktail lounges.

Still, Howard looks good these days. I should know. I'm one of the lucky ones—I saw him. He was leaving a limousine and entering the hotel with a female companion. Howard seems to have lost some weight, and according to various sources he's cut down on cigars, as well.

Through reading the scripts and press releases on his new projects, I've pieced together a look at Howard's upcoming material, and the duck himself—his life, love, success, and the effects of that success on a waterfowl.

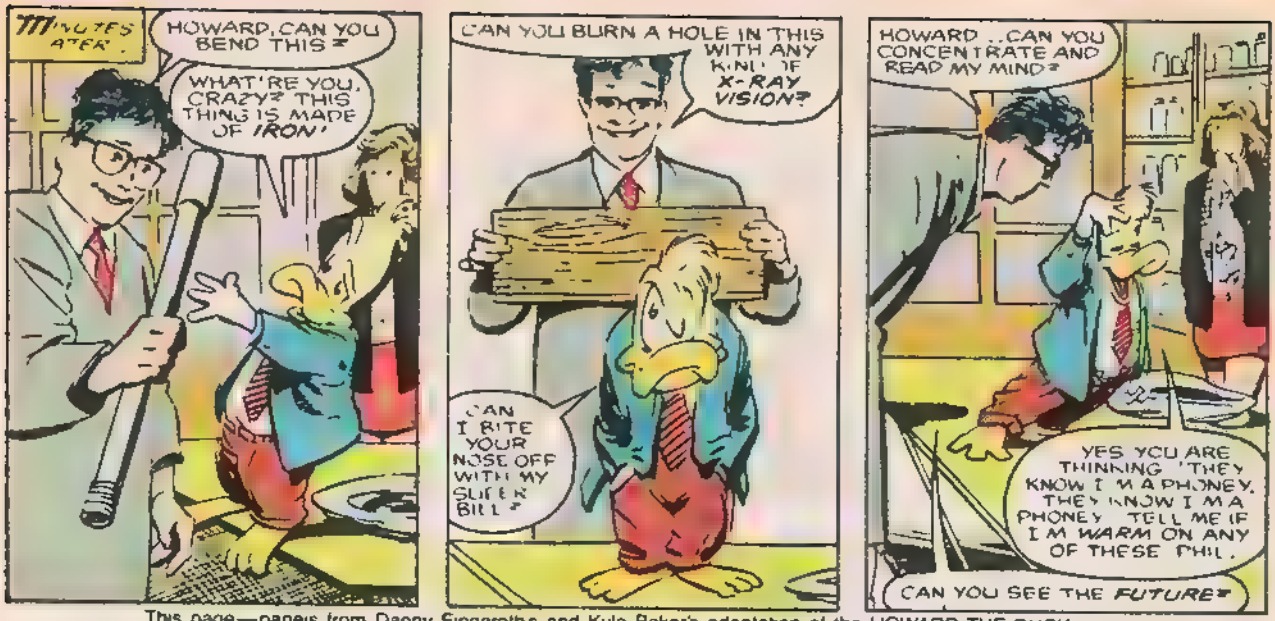
*

The first and most daring of Howard's new projects is, of course, Universal Studios' *Howard The Duck*, the movie in which he stars. Howard may be more excited about the film than anything these days—after all, it's infrequent that an actor gets a starring role the first time out, even if he is an established star in another medium. The film's Executive Producer is **George Lucas**, the man who's had a part in more recent popular films (The *Star Wars* series, *American Graffiti*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and more) than almost anyone except his frequent partner/collaborator **Steven Spielberg**. **Lea Thompson** co-stars with Howard as **Beverly Switzler**. You may remember Thompson from last summer's enormously successful *Back to the Future*. According to all sources, Howard and Lea are just good friends, as they are in the movie itself. Rumor has it that Howard has been seeing another duck, who was once a star in her own right. While Howard has been completely unwilling to disclose her name, it is believed that their relationship began when she broke off from another duck, who is also a major film star of the past.

The movie details Howard's arrival on Earth, and his attempts to adjust to being stuck on a totally bizarre (in his point of view) world. Over the course of the story, he meets motorcycle thugs, the police, the crooked manager of Beverly Switzler's rock band, Beverly herself, and demons from another dimension! And, finding he really *can't* get back to his own Duckworld, Howard tries to come to terms with his new home. The film appears to be a real whirlwind, with Howard doing both extensive physical comedy and his usual social satire. The film was co-written by its director, **Willard Huyck**, and its producer, **Gloria Katz**, who kept the story very faithful to the spirit of the HOWARD THE DUCK comic stories. They took much of what we had learned about Howard and his existence on this world over the course of many comics, and condensed it into a single movie script. **Steve Gerber** (who introduced Howard to comicdom) even served as a creative consultant. As is often the case, the story grew out of Howard's own past. He did eke out a living as a singer/songwriter, and moved aimlessly from job to job, before making it in comics.

Aside from all this, the movie should be special musically as well. The soundtrack is by **Thomas Dolby**, who has worked with such diverse talents as **Lene Lovich** and **Joni Mitchell**, and whose hit single "She Blinded Me With Science" was the original theme song for tv's *Misfits of Science*.

Howard's life in comics began in FEAR #19, featuring **the Man-Thing**. The story was written by Steve Gerber and


MINUTES AFTER...
HOWARD, CAN YOU BEND THIS?
WHAT'RE YOU, CRAZY? THIS THING IS MADE OF IRON!
CAN YOU BURN A HOLE IN THIS WITH ANY KIND OF X-RAY VISION?
CAN I BITE YOUR NOSE OFF WITH MY SUPER BILL?
HOWARD...CAN YOU CONCENTRATE AND READ MY MIND?
YES YOU ARE THINKING 'THEY KNOW I'M A PHONEY. THEY KNOW I'M A PHONEY. TELL ME IF I'M WARM ON ANY OF THESE PHIL.
CAN YOU SEE THE FUTURE?

This page—panels from Danny Fingeroth's and Kyle Baker's adaptation of the HOWARD THE DUCK movie

drawn by **Val Mayerik** and **Sal Trapani**, and Howard himself was featured as a walk-on character, a member of a large cast. It was a truly bizarre start for his career. Howard's own lack of tolerance and the Man-Thing's, well, disgusting appearance and smell lead the two to stay away from each other. After a couple of short solo stories in the back of GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING, Howard wound up in his own title. Gerber, along with pencilers **Frank Brunner** and **Gene Colan** and inkers **Steve Leialoha** and **Klaus Janson**, among others, forged ahead with their own unique brand of social and political satire.

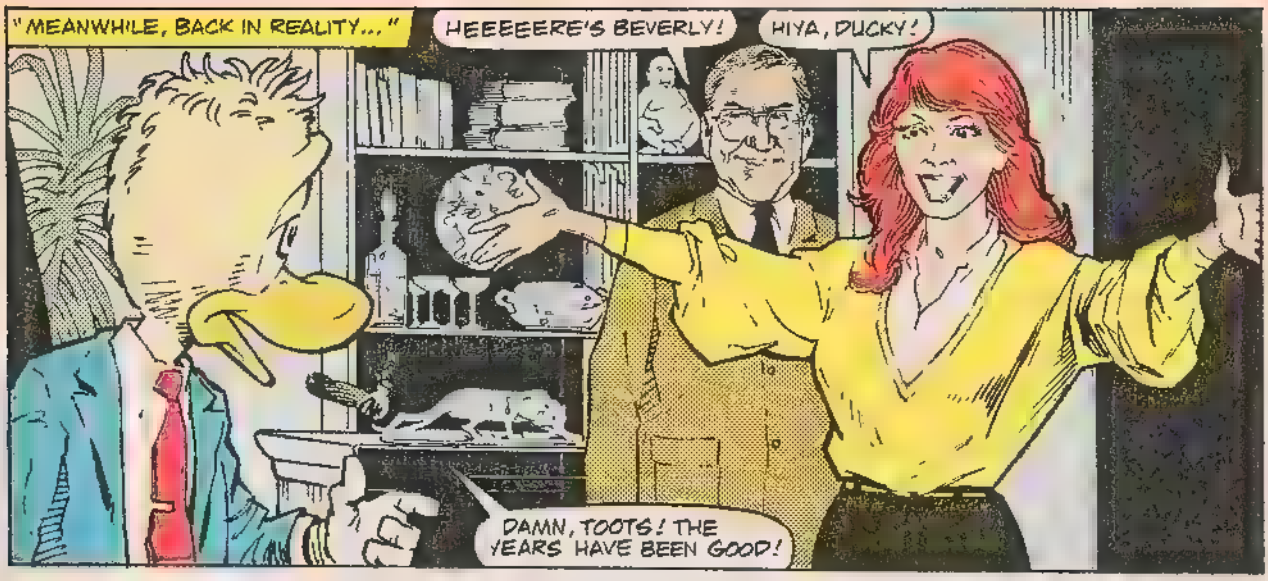
The series was a success, for a time. Howard ran for president, and even went so far as to commission artist **Berni Wrightson** to do a presidential-style portrait of him

He also appeared in his own annual, and an issue of Marvel's tabloid-sized MARVEL TREASURY EDITION, which co-starred **the Defenders**. Howard was becoming very popular—he even had his own daily and Sunday newspaper comic strip, which was written by Steve Gerber (and later **Marv Wolfman**) and drawn by artists such as Gene Colan, Val Mayerik, and **Alan Kupperburg**. But after a year or so of the month in, month out schedule of comic books, plus his newspaper and political obligations, Howard was showing some serious signs of strain. The whole "Duck's Head Soup" series, which ran from issue #10 through #20, was a reflection of the problems Howard was going through personally. Not knowing what to do, Howard tried everything— space travel, joining the circus, teaming up with the rock group **Kiss**, losing his mind completely, even becoming human! He regained control of himself for a short while after that, but also slowed down his pace considerably. HOWARD THE DUCK went on hiatus with its thirty-first issue. It came back not long afterward as a black and white magazine, which lasted nine issues.

After getting away from the strains of the HOWARD THE DUCK MAGAZINE, Howard took a break, in an effort to pull himself together. One of the factors that helped Howard regain his stability was his interest in the philosophical side of the martial arts. He'd been trained extensively in Quak Fu from the early days of his comics career, but like many, he ignored the spiritual side of it. Now, Howard spends a good amount of time every day getting in touch with his soul, sometimes at the expense of shooting schedules or editorial meetings.

Howard came back to comics after a time, in a short story in an anti-Christmas issue of BIZARRE ADVENTURES. The story was sort of a reversed version of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Howard is going to kill himself, and an angel comes down to save him. The angel proceeds to show him how his friends wouldn't be the same without him. Instead, they're happier than ever for having never known him. It was a tentative step towards recovering his career, and as before, was a clear reflection of his own feelings and ideas. Howard is not a pessimist, but a confirmed curmudgeon.

Last summer, the long-awaited thirty-second issue of HOWARD THE DUCK came out. Soon afterward, the movie production began. And once he started on the movie, offers for new comics work began to come in. The comics adaptation of the movie, which will be available both as MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #41 and as a three-issue limited series, marks a new chapter in Howard's comic book career. It's



The Duck at leisure—Christopher Stager's and Val Mayerik's HOWARD THE DUCK #33.

being written by MARVEL SAGA editor **Danny Fingeroth**, with art by **Kyle Baker**, and is being edited by **Bob Budiansky**. The art on the adaptation is spectacular Kyle Baker's penciling is every bit as good as his inking, which has been seen recently in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and NEW MUTANTS. And Danny has clearly been having a good time adapting the movie's script.

Also coming up this summer will be another new issue of the original HOWARD THE DUCK series. Issue #33, which will be a direct sales only comic printed on Baxter paper, features a brand new story written by **Christopher Stager**, drawn by Val Mayerik, and edited by **Jim Salicrup**. It's the first time Howard has worked with Val in quite a few years, but the old chemistry is still there. Val and Chris are the perfect men to chronicle Howard's adventures in one way, as they actually live in Cleveland, where the tale takes place. The thirty page story centers around Howard winning ten million dollars in a lottery, and how he uses it in a quest to find the perfect mate. It's a typically relevant topic for Howard, in this age of 'the personals' and computer dating. The issue will also have a cover by acclaimed British artist **Brian Bolland.**

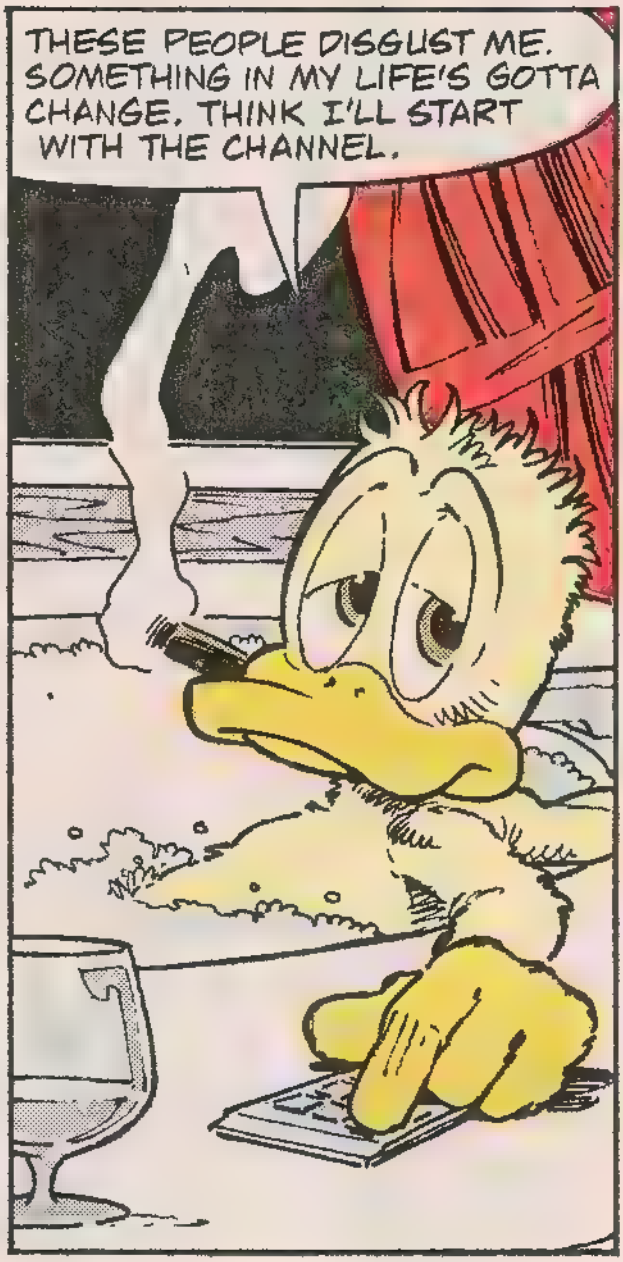
*

With so many projects coming out this summer, Howard's fame is once again on the rise. One might wonder how this might affect Cleveland's most famous duck. He seems to be as brash, witty and obnoxious as ever. He doesn't seem to like the press, and perhaps never has, as anyone who remembers his campaign for the presidency will recall. During the campaign, he frequently ended his press conferences not with the customary question and answer session, but with a dancing girl, who would jump up on the table, and sing "Th-th-that's all, folks!"

The future of Howard's film career looks bright. He is still as brilliant as ever, and clearly knows where he is headed in life. There is talk around town of him writing his own film, and of him working with many of Hollywood's biggest stars. Whether or not any of this is true remains to be seen.

I tried calling Howard again last night, this time directly to his room. Somehow I got through, but he hung up with a "Waugggghhh!" when he realized who I was. Howard doesn't return phone calls. But, no matter how hard he tries to ignore the world, it appears the world will lavish its attention on Howard the Duck.

—Adam Philips



HEMBECK'S

SO WHATTAYA GAWKIN' AT? NEVER SEEN A CIGAR CHOMPIN' TALKIN' DUCK BEFORE?
COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T. IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN SEEN ON ANY SORT OF REGULAR BASIS.
PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M HOWARD. HOWARD THE DUCK, IF YOU LIKE.
YOU YOUNGER READERS MAY NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT I WA ONCE THE BIGGEST SENSATION IN COMICS YUP, EVEN BIGGER THAN THE X-MEN. NO LIE.
I WAS OUTTA THE PUBLIC EYE FOR QUITE SOME TIME, THOUGH I DID SUFFER THE SCRUTINY OF A BUNCHA GUYS IN SUITS. GUYS IN SUITS-- BLECCH.
BUT NOW IT'S 1986, TIME FOR THE BIG COMEBACK. DON'T GET ME WRONG--COMIC BOOKS ARE NICE, BUT THIS TIME I'M LETTING THE SILVER SCREEN BE MY PRIMARY SHOWCASE.
AND IT'S NOT JUST SOME JUNKY TV MOVIE EITHER--MY FILM'S BEING PRODUCED BY GEORGE LUCAS HIMSELF! GEORGE QUACKING LUCAS! YOU'VE MAYBE HEARD OF STAR WARS?..
SO C'MON, ALL YOU READERS--GO O AND SEE MY MOVIE! THIS JUST MIGHT BE MY LAST CHANCE AT THE TOP.

CRAZY THING WAS, IT WAS ALL AN ACCIDENT. I LITERALLY FELL INTO A MAN-THING STORY, AND QUICKLY FELL OUT AGAIN -- ONLY IT WAS TOO LATE. ONCE SEEN, ALL OF FANDOM CLAMORED FOR MORE MORE MORE OF ME! (AND, heh heh, WHO CAN BLAME 'EM?...)
SO I GOT MY VERY OWN COMIC BOOK, THE FIRST ISSUE OF WHICH WAS SELLING FOR SOME SERIOUS BUCKS FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD COMICS DEALER NOT A MONTH AFTER HITTING THE STANDS.
A LOTTA ATTENTION FOLLOWED -- A LOT. OL' HOWARD WAS A FULL FLEDGED MEDIA STAR. Ah, LIFE IN THE FAST LANE...
I GUESS IT WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST, SO, AFTER A FEW YEARS, IT DIDN'T. NOW I KNEW HOW THE BAY CITY ROLLERS FELT...
NO, THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. THERE IS ONE CRUCIAL FACT THAT I HAVEN'T AS YET DISCLOSED (CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?)...
Y'SEE, I'M NOT REALLY A TALKING DUCK AT ALL...
I'M A MUTANT.
BUT FOR NOW, FORGET I SAID THAT. WE'LL COME BACK TO THAT IF NECESSARY. JUST GO OUT AND SEE MY MOVIE -- TWICE! THREE TIMES IF POSSIBLE. ANYTHING TO KEEP FROM LAYING AN EGG...

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Greetings, Gadflies!

Y'know, there's something strange about magazine time. Here I am, on the 26th of March, 1986, sitting at my wondrous little word processor in the hallowed hills of Hollywood writing this column. And here you are, anywhere in the free world, a long time after March, reading the woebegone words that I wrote lo these many months ago! That means, at this very moment, my "now" is your "yesterday." And, even as I write this sentence, your "now" is my "tomorrow"! If that's not enough to shake you up, I'll let **Galactus** finish this article!

But enough of this philosophical philandering. Let's get down to the nitty gritty. Remember me telling you that HOWARD THE DUCK is about to hit the screen, produced by **George Lucas** and kibitzed by **Irving Forbush**? Well, now I've got another bush-league bombshell to lay on you. **Bob Gale**, the genial young genius who co-wrote BACK TO THE FUTURE, has just completed the screenplay for DR. STRANGE! Yep, right at this very moment (more than three months ago to you, remember?) we're searching for the perfect director to bring the magic from the pages of our mag to the silver screen!

Now let's switch gears. Last ish we discussed "The Role of the Super Hero in America, Yesterday and Today!" Actually, we only discussed the "yesterday" part. So, now it's time to segue into the "today" section. If the suspense is getting too unbearable for any of you, feel free to leave the room.

In the sixties and seventies, mighty Marvel stressed "realism" on the part of our heroes. They worried, they bled, they ached, they suffered. But the stories were basically simple, good vs. evil—and you knew who was gonna win.

Today, here in the exotic eighties, things have changed again. No longer are the plot themes simple. Now our story lines are as fluid and complex as the writers can make them. People die, people change, good guys become bad and baddies turn good. The makeup of the teams themselves is as changeable as the weather. Nothing is sacred, no thing stays the same, anything's possible, anything goes!

Perhaps the word that most describes the change is—intense! Everything and everybody is more intense! Our heroes are intense, the supporting cast is intense, the Bullpen is intense, and you—the reader—are the most intense of all.

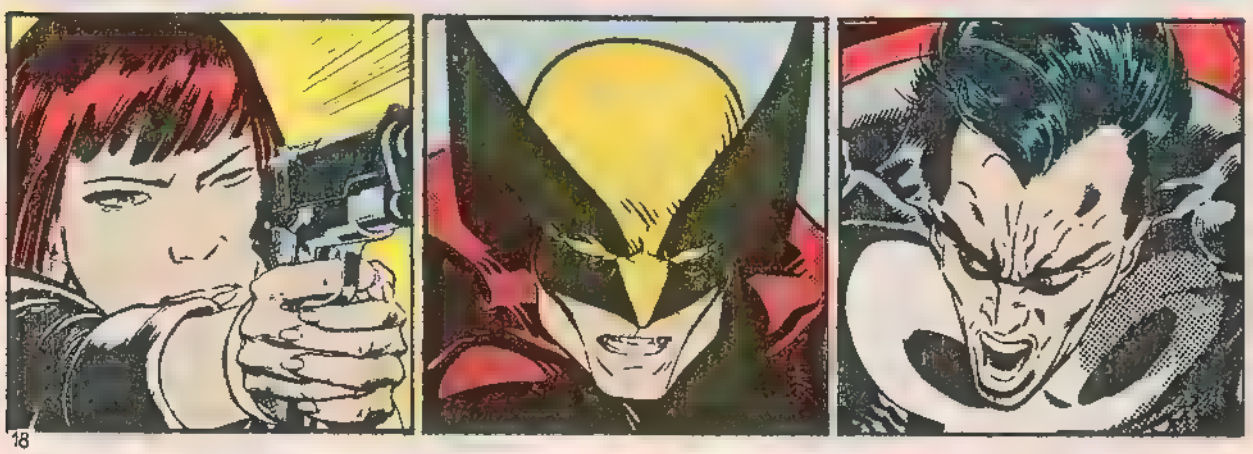
Personally, I'm all for the new style. It's perfectly suited for the lives we lead and the world we live in. It echoes the fears and concerns of each one of us. But, most important, it's just plain fun to read!

For today's comic-book heroes to do their job, they must speak for today's generation. Ours do!

So, here's to **Shooter** and his merry band of Marvel maniacs—may they never lose their touch!

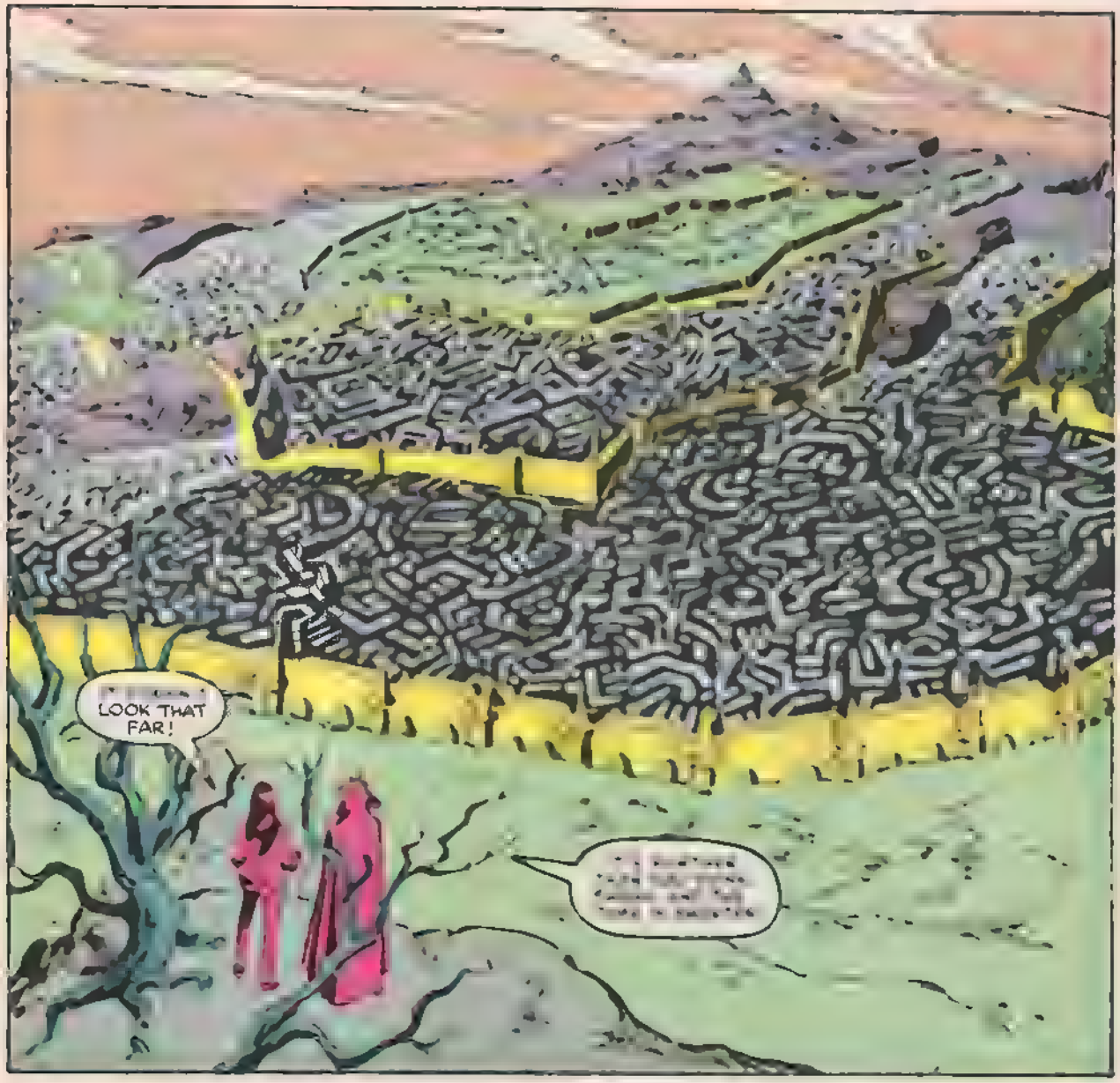
As for me, I'll be back next month with more literary lunacy to confound and confuse you! And, whatever you do, wherever you go, think Marvel! It's better than the measles!

Excelsior!



ENTER THE A-MAZE-ING WORLD OF

Labyrinth™

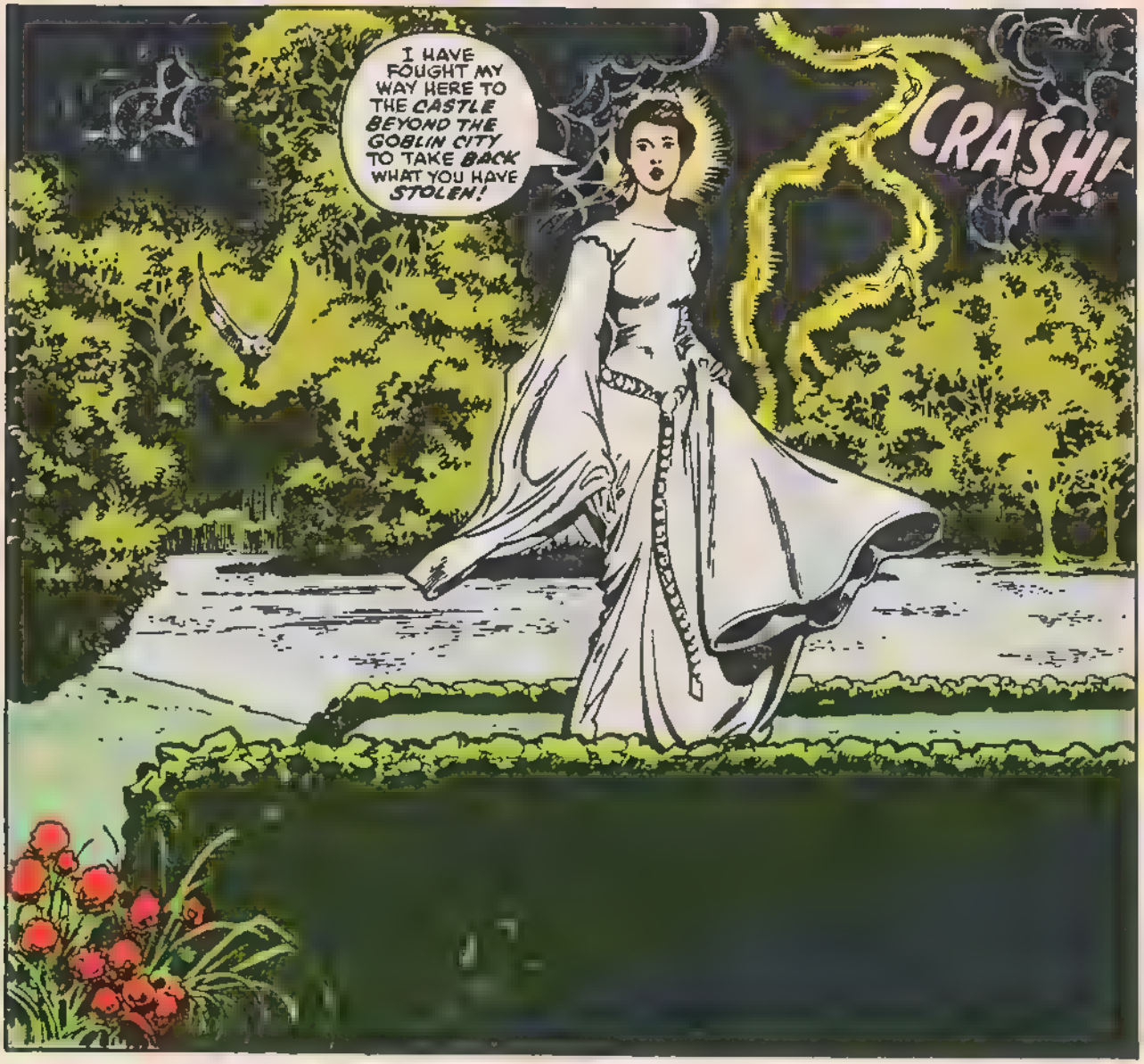


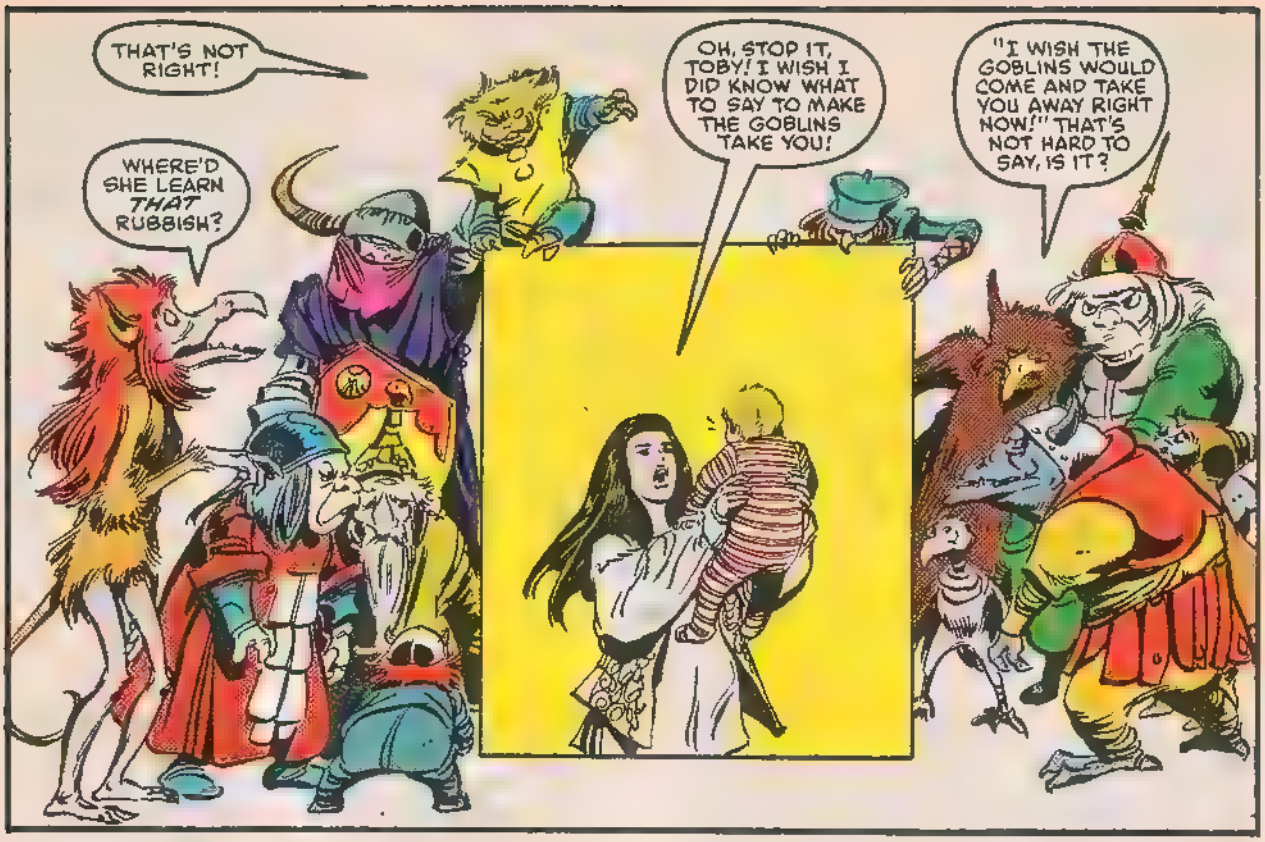
LABYRINTH © 1986 Henson Associates, Inc.

Ever wish you could leave the real world behind and live in a place filled with goblins and magic, where you could embark on fabulous adventures? Well, that's what happens to a fifteen-year-old girl named **Sara** in Henson Associates' feature film LABYRINTH—and the experience isn't quite what she expected!

Created by the same people who brought you **the Muppets** and the film THE DARK CRYSTAL, LABYRINTH concerns itself with the adventures of Sara, an all-too-ordinary girl with an all-too-active imagination! Sara is dissatisfied with her dull, uneventful life, so she takes refuge in her fantasies. But when she accidentally invokes an ancient magical spell, she summons **the Goblin King** (played by actor/rock star **David Bowie**)! And when the Goblin King leaves, he takes Sara's baby brother with him! Sara's only hope of recovering her brother lies in making her way through the Goblin King's labyrinth! And that's when the adventure begins.

It's no secret that Marvel has a long-standing working relationship with Henson Associates, stretching from Mar-




THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
WHERE'D SHE LEARN *THAT* RUBBISH?
OH, STOP IT, TOBY! I WISH I DID KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO MAKE THE GOBLINS TAKE YOU!
"I WISH THE GOBLINS WOULD COME AND TAKE YOU AWAY RIGHT NOW!" THAT'S NOT HARD TO SAY, IS IT?

vel's adaptations of THE DARK CRYSTAL and THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN to Star's MUPPET BABIES and FRAGGLE ROCK series. So it should come as no surprise to learn that when LABYRINTH debuts in theaters across the country this summer, it will be accompanied by an official Marvel adaptation of the film! Appearing as both the 64-page MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #41 and a three-issue limited series, the adaptation is being handled by writer **Sid Jacobson** and artists **John Buscema** and **Romeo Tanghal**.

"I had experience writing movie adaptations, since I had written the MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL which adapted SANTA CLAUS: THE MOVIE, and I like working with the Henson people," Sid Jacobson says, explaining why he took time away from his duties as the hard-working editor of most of Marvel's Star Comics line to write LABYRINTH. "The people at Henson Associates are appropriately difficult to work with. By that, I mean that they feel strongly about their characters and want to see them done with full knowledge and proper characterization. They have a very strong interest in these things, but they're also very helpful and reasonable."

Veteran Marvel artist **John Buscema** echoes Sid's sentiments. John agreed to draw LABYRINTH because he had seen and enjoyed THE DARK CRYSTAL, and like Sid, he quickly discovered just how helpful the friendly folks at Henson Associates could be. "When I drew the adaptation of the CONAN movie, the studio that produced it gave me hardly any stills to work from," John recalls. "For LABYRINTH, I get as many as I need! I haven't had any problems. No hassles at all."

Sid and John's satisfaction shows through in their fine work on the adaptation! Sid asserts that he has stayed fairly close to the film. "Whatever changes I have made are there to help bridge scenes and so on," he says. But the adaptation is far more than a simple transcription of the LABYRINTH movie; the adaptation's editor, **Bob Budiansky**, feels that it's even better than the film! "LABYRINTH is a wild fantasy full of adventure and suspense!" Bob says.

The people at Henson Associates are pretty satisfied, too! "Everyone at Henson is in awe over John's artwork!" says Sid. "They can't believe it!" And Sid's more than a little impressed with John's work himself! "Visually, the film is fantastic, and John's brought it to life fabulously!" he raves. "I think the art is sensational in every respect!"

Sid and John have developed a somewhat unusual method for producing the adaptation. A special screening of the film was set up for everyone involved in the adaptation, so that they could get a feel for the film's look and style. Then, working from the original screenplay, Sid began to write the adaptation, complete with dialogue and rough sketches showing the layout of each panel! This is the method that's used in writing Marvel's various Star Comics, and Sid stresses that "it's the only way I work." John finds that having Sid's sketches in front of him makes his work even easier! "It's a breeze!" he says.

John's hectic schedule simply doesn't allow him to ink LABYRINTH as well as pencil it, though, so editor Bob Budiansky embarked on a search for the perfect inker for the project. He eventually settled on accomplished inker **Romeo Tanghal**, and the choice proved to be a good one! "I like Romeo's work," Bob says. "He has a remarkably light touch, and that's what this sort of thing needs!"

Everyone involved in Marvel's adaptation of LABYRINTH is enjoying it and is proud of the work he's done (as well everyone should be)! Whether you read LABYRINTH as a MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL or as a Limited Series, you're assured of a well-crafted, top-notch tale of fantasy and adventure! Don't miss it!

—Shelly Fisch

STAR SPOTLIGHT

MADBALLS™

I was catching up on the goings on of **the Getalong Gang** when the call came. It was **Adam Philips**, assistant editor of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. I was expecting his call. It was about time for my next assignment. When Adam told me what the assignment was, I almost asked for verification from editor **Jim Salicrup**. Adam is a known practical joker. I thought better of it. Even Adam wouldn't joke about something as serious as a Star spotlight assignment. But MADBALLS?

You heard me right—MADBALLS! I knew virtually nothing about them. I'd seen their pictures on the backs of some of our comics. They're round and Gross—with a capital G. And they're Marvel's newest Star Comic. I shrugged. When you work the Star Comics beat, you see a lot of strange things.

I made a point to stop by the Star Comics office. **Sid Jacobson** was on the phone--he's always on the phone. On his desk was a Madball. I wasn't surprised. He also has a **Top Dog** fire hydrant. Between phone calls Sid gave me the names and numbers of the creative people working on MADBALLS, and I went to work.

Tom Jacobs is a hard man to get a hold of. That's OK. I've learned to be patient. (You ever try to get a hold of **Chris Claremont**?) Finally I caught him at his office in Cleveland.

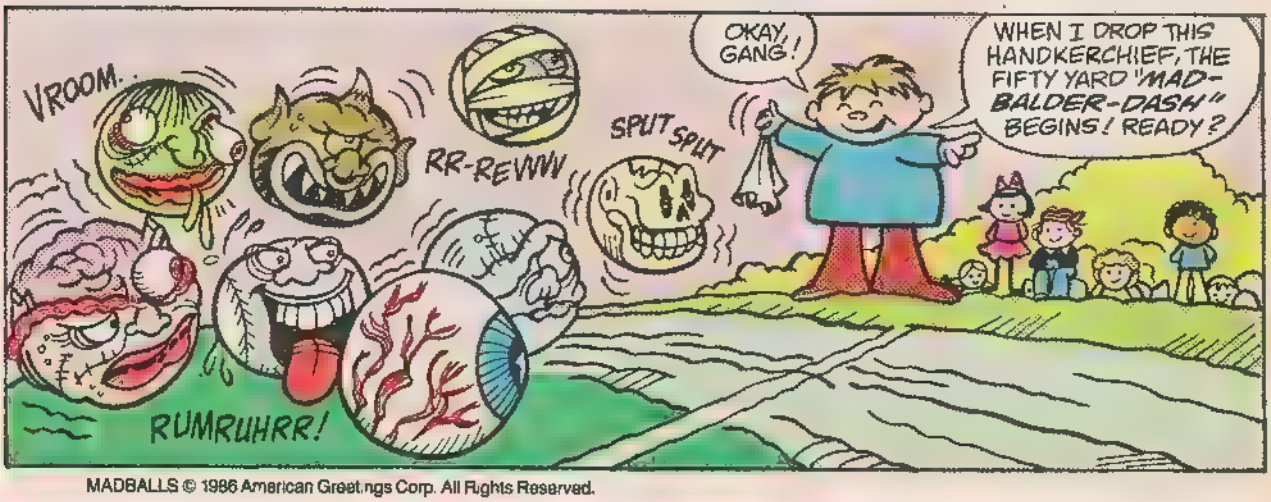
"Gross is the operative word when it comes to **the Madballs**," he told me.

"I've noticed. How'd you come up with the idea anyhow?" I probed. That's when the flood of information came pouring out of the phone.

The Madballs are characters owned and licensed by American Greetings Corporation (AGC), the same folks who created **Strawberry Shortcake**, the Getalong Gang and **the Care Bears**. Tom Jacobs is an editor at AGC. That much I'd already gleaned from my brief conversation with Sid.

Madballs are not the typical AGC product. No surprise there. Those things are about as far from Care Bears as you can get. While projects at AGC are usually developed by committee, Madballs was the brainchild of a single person —Tom Jacobs! Tom figured that balls were a big part of a kid's life. Maybe they could do something different with balls. And though **Garbage Pail Kids** were not even a glimmer in anyone's eye at the time, he hit upon what seemed like a bizarre concept. Take balls and make them *gross!* (Again with that word!) Gross might be *in*.

Next the concept went to the artists who designed the



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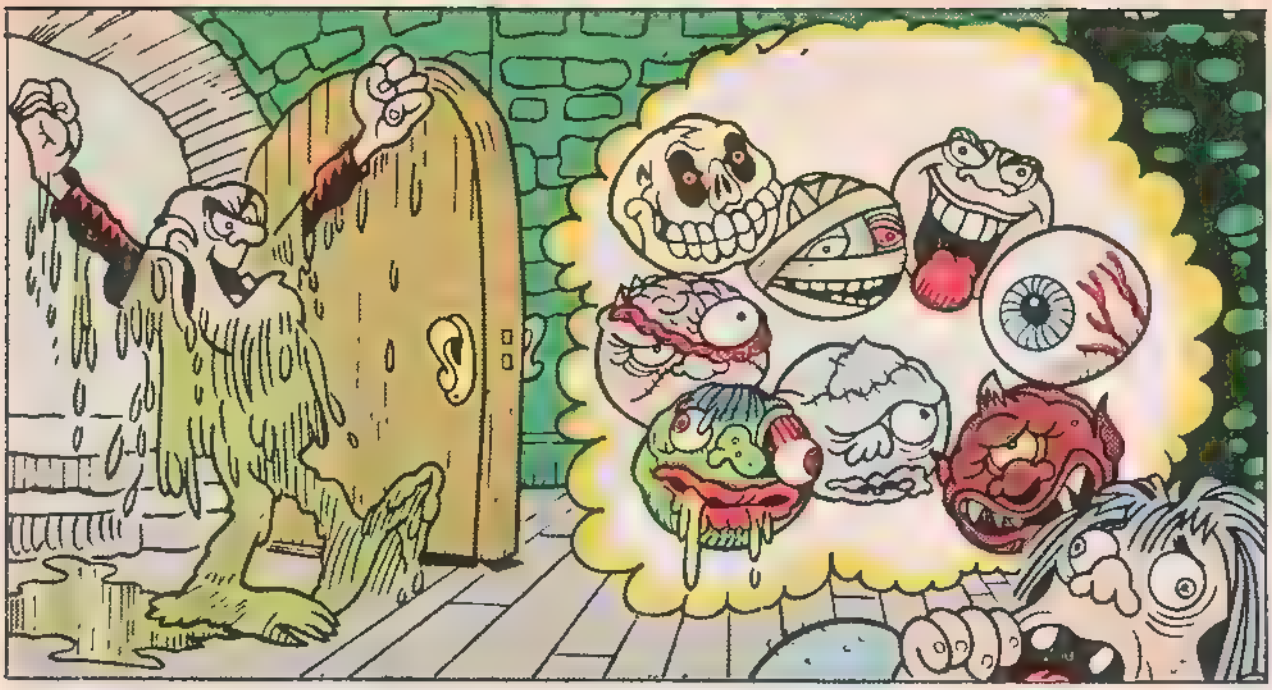


eight Madballs. **Shelley Lubow** of the editorial department created personalities for them. Then came the fun part—naming the darned things. The whole staff participated in that. They had twenty names for each, after narrowing down the list and checking to see what names were available from a legal standpoint. The final choices were as follows:

Oculus Orbus—he's just an eyeball. He can see things that others can't, sometimes even the future. (Tom assured me that the Madballs are not super heroes. They all have just a hint of an ability to give them a little edge.)

Hornhead is the ultimate battering ram. He's got a horn on his head (do Madballs have heads? Are they all head?), which, I guess, is how he got his name. (As far as I know he's no relation to **Daredevil**.)

Dustbrain looks like a mummy and if you get too close you might get wrapped up in his bandages.

Crackhead is the brains of the group. His name is derived from the fact that his head is cracked and half his brain is showing.

Slobulus is just what he sounds like. He's handy to have around if you want to put out a fire. As Tom put it, "he's damp." His saliva is a green color.

Screaming Mimi looks like a baseball who's screaming. He's the speedster of the Madballs.

Aargh is ugly. 'Nuff said.

Skull Face, logically enough, looks like a skull. He goes where no Madball dares go. Rumor has it that he was once something other than a ball.

The Madballs really *are* balls! Exposed to chemical and nuclear pollution, some normal, nonsentient balls were transformed. They live in the deserted Aragon Ballroom. (Where else?)

There are two things that Tom especially likes about the Madballs. First, he likes the way they interact with kids. Kids are going to want to pick them up and play with them. Boy, are they going to be surprised! Second, he's charmed by their innocence. The Madballs are new to being alive. They don't know how things work. Tom plans on having them go to a ballgame and wonder why everyone is trying to hit the poor ball. They don't look innocent, but they are.

Having finished talking with Tom, I sat down to call the MADBALLS' artist, **Howie Post**. Howie and I had talked before when I wrote an article on STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE some time ago. Howie's a great guy—the kind you'd like to hang around with shooting the breeze and hoisting a few brews. He's a real veteran in the comic book business, going back to Marvel's Timely period of the 1940's.

"It's maddening!" Howie said to me when I asked him about MADBALLS. I wasn't quite sure what he was talking about. He elaborated. "I just learned all of the STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE outfits, then they switched to new clothes!" He moaned. "Now I have to learn eight new characters. Whatever happened to the days when there was one hero and a villain?"

Knowing that this was just Howie's way, I probed a little further. Howie explained how he starts out on a new project like MADBALLS. "I get a lot of sheets of paper," he said, "and replicate the characters, familiarizing myself with them, moving them around and changing them." This gestation period takes about three to four days, then he gets to work. "I like to know how the characters work before I put them on paper," he explained.

Michael Gallagher (writer of HEATHCLIFF) will also be writing some MADBALLS stories. All I can say is that if he can do for balls what he's done for cats, MADBALLS will be a smash hit. (Ask any HEATHCLIFF fan if you don't believe me.)

I left the Star Comics office somewhat surprised. I'd come in thinking MADBALLS was some kind of bad joke and left thinking that it was another very promising and very exciting series from Star Comics.

I mentioned to my fellow MARVEL AGE correspondent, **Sholly Fisch** (who doubles as my roommate) that I thought they might have something with this Madballs idea. He just laughed.

He'll learn.

I don't know about him, but I've already reserved my copy of MADBALLS. You should do the same.

—Sandy Hausler

NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT

It's the dream of almost everyone who falls in love with comics to one day write or draw the adventures of their favorite heroes for his or her favorite comic book company. For **Louis Williams**, it's a dream come true.

Louis, a 21 year old native of Maryland, has dreamed of drawing for Marvel Comics his entire life. "I've always been a big fan of Marvel, from the first time I picked up a comic book," he said. "I've always dreamed of doing comic art. It's just all the more exciting getting a chance to do it for Marvel."

What's even more fantastic is that his first assignment is doing the pencil art for an upcoming issue of NEW MUTANTS, after which he'll be picking up the reins as regular penciler for DAREDEVIL! How did Louis arrive at this extraordinary position? If you ask him, he still doesn't believe it's happening.

"I've attended art school part-time for two or three years. During that time I've worked at the White House, as a postal carrier, you name it. Then I decided to seriously try to get work as an artist," explained Louis.

So he started sending samples around to all the various companies. "I pestered everybody for a couple of years," he said. Then he saw what actual pencil work for a comic book looked like. "I was way off in the beginning, thinking I had to draw everything as finished art. When I saw what other pencilers are actually producing, I had something concrete to work toward. I was looking for an assignment and I'd settle for anything. I never believed I'd get a shot at NEW MUTANTS."

Louis drew up new samples and sent copies to "everyone in the business. At that point, the army was beginning to look good as a career option," he laughed. But his perseverance paid off. His first professional sale is a NEW MUTANTS inventory story that should work its way into the series schedule soon. The issue focuses on **Amara** and was almost like working on hallowed ground for Louis. "I've been a big fan of X-MEN and NEW MUTANTS for a long, long time. And getting a chance to pencil a **Chris Claremont** story was fantastic. After I got over my initial anxiety, it was fun and exciting."

When Louis sent his samples into the Marvel offices, he found it hard to get good critiques over the phone. "I thought it would be a big mountain to get over, that my work was far from being ready. But the editors actually wanted less than I was giving them. They wanted less line work and cleaner drawings. I learned that the penciler simply lays a blueprint for the inker. Once I understood the actual process and kept it in mind, things went much more smoothly. Thinking is important. You always have to keep in mind the function of the penciler as you go about producing the work," explained Louis.

Starting with issue #237, Louis becomes the regular penciler of DAREDEVIL. (And, to get an idea of what his work on DD looks like, check out his page in this year's MARVEL AGE ANNUAL.) "We conducted a massive talent search and liked his work best," said DD editor **Ralph Macchio**. "Louis has terrific potential. We're teaming him with DD's new writer, **Steve Englehart**, and he'll be inked by **Al Williamson**."

Ralph explained that Steve was impressed by his pencils and Al specifically asked if he could ink him. "We definitely feel that Louis is going to become a fan favorite. He has that quality in his work, that style. He reminds me in a lot of ways of **Bill Sienkiewicz** and one of the more famous DAREDEVIL artists of old, **Gene Colan**. His pencils are loose and exciting. They're full of action, emotion, and wild abandon. The biggest problems right now that he has to work on are getting a focus and tightening up his art. But once he gets that down, watch out!"

"I'm very excited to be given this assignment," said Louis. "I admire Steve Englehart's work and hear he's got some wild ideas planned for DAREDEVIL. It's a dream come true to be working with him and Al."

What's it like to be a big-time comic book artist? "I'm still trying to realize I'm not dreaming," said Louis. "I still have to work on everything. It's hard to get a focus on what to improve until I actually see my work reduced and in print. I have to improve my storytelling, too. There's always room to learn and grow. I just hope I get better as I go along."

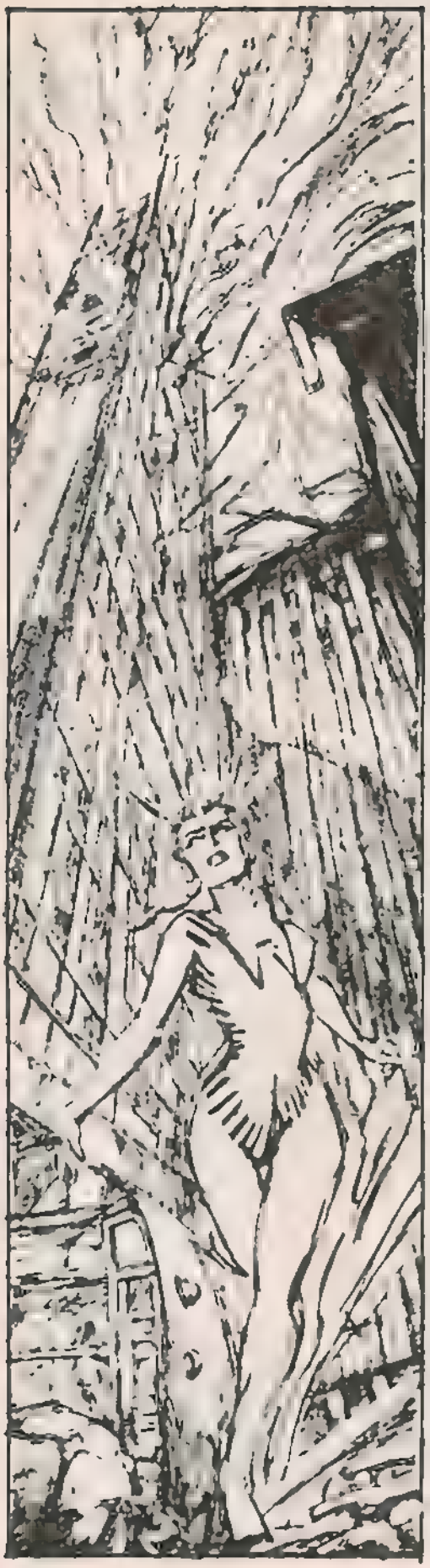
Louis explained that the toughest part is getting through his first assignment on time. "But it's more than just making deadlines. It's also geting it done and still putting out something I can be proud of."

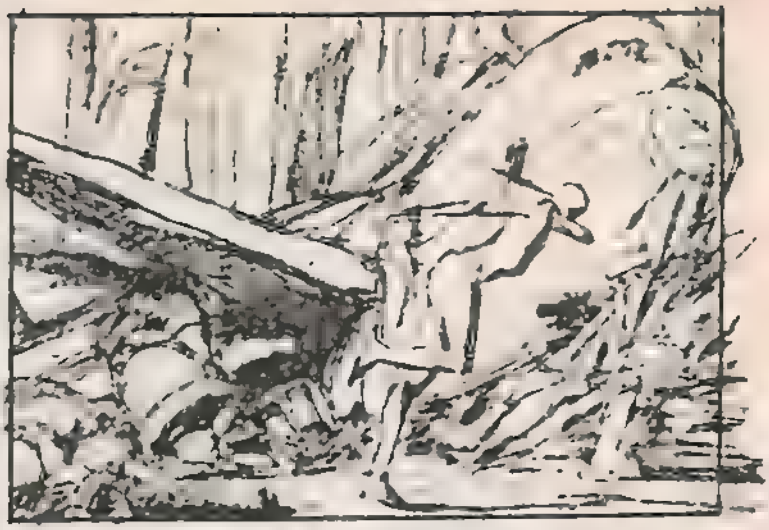
What was his biggest surprise? "That the people up at Marvel are nice people. They're down to earth and helpful. Other companies that saw my work were less willing to work with me. I expected that the people who create the books that I read would be aloof and unreachable. But that wasn't the case. I really feel that if I make mistakes they'll tell me, but my head won't be on a chopping block. At least, I hope my impressions are correct!" laughed Louis.

He is particularly impressed with the work of **Jack Kirby**, Bill Sienkiewicz, and **John Romita, Jr.** "Those are my current role models. They each do things that I think are perfect and essential to good comic art and storytelling."

"Now there're deadlines and lots of pressure and it's neat! I might like to eventually branch into illustration, but there's so much to do in comics that I hope to be around for quite a while. NEW MUTANTS and DAREDEVIL is my first step. I hope it will be a step that lasts a long, long time."

—Bill Slavicsek





THE MARVEL AGE 1972 (PART III)

Well, here we are again, ready to take another look at Marvel 1972! Last time, we covered a slew of awesome origins! This time around we'll focus on the first appearance of Ka-Zar's pal Shanna, Spidey's run-ins with the underworld, and the return of one of the greatest writer-artists of the Golden Age of Comics!

But first, a brand new heroine was making her debut in the first issue of her very own series, courtesy of writers **Carole Seuling** and artists **George Tuska** and **Vince Colletta**! As she fought a ring of poachers who were killing animals in Africa, **Shanna O'Hara** recalled the story of her life. Shanna grew up with a great hatred of guns, a hatred which began when her family went on a hunting trip in the jungle. Her mother was walking through the underbrush when her father mistook her for a leopard and shot her, killing her instantly! Shanna decided to protect animals from hunters and guns, and after earning her Ph.D., she went to work at a zoo. But one night, vandals broke in and shot all the animals! Shanna had enough of civilization, so she donned a leopard skin costume and went to live in the jungle! There, the animals became her friends, and accompanied by her leopard **Ina** and her panther **Biri**, she battled evil as SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL!

SPIDER-MAN started off the year with girl trouble of a very different kind, thanks to scripter **Roy Thomas** and artist **Gil Kane**! On a trip to **Ka-Zar's** Savage Land, Spidey's girlfriend, **Gwen Stacy**, had been kidnaped by **Kraven the Hunter** and a giant alien named **Gog**! Spidey and Ka-Zar managed to rescue Gwen and defeat the pair, but no sooner had the wall-crawler returned to New York than he found himself caught in the middle of a rapid-fire series of adventures created by **Stan Lee**, **Gerry Conway**, and **John**

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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
20¢ 112
GO ON, MORBIUS! AIN'T EACH OTHER- ARE EACH OTHER-- DO ANYTHING YOU WANT!
I JUST DON'T CARE ANY MORE!
SPIDEY COPS OUT!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP..
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
20¢ 106
HOW DOES OUR HERO GET OUT OF THIS?
REVEALED! THE FACE OF PETER PARKER!
SQUASH! GOES THE SPIDER!

Romita! First, Spider-Man faced the menace of **Professor Spencer Smythe's** latest and most formidable **Spider-Slayer** robot! Even worse, though, was Spidey's discovery that Smythe had placed closed-circuit TV cameras on rooftops all over the city and had seen Spider-Man's real face! Fortunately, he was able to trick Smythe into thinking that his Peter Parker face was just a disguise before beating the Spider-Slayer and turning him over to the police. Meanwhile, **Flash Thompson** had become the target of a band of deadly Vietnamese monks! They had known Flash while he was in the Army in Vietnam and blamed him for the destruction of their village! Spidey saved Flash with some help from his old friend **Dr. Strange**, and things ended happily as Flash was reunited with **Sha Shan**, the Vietnamese woman he loved. Things were less happy for Spider-Man himself, though, as he battled foes such as **the Gibbon**, a would-be hero turned villain by Kraven the Hunter! He beat the Gibbon relatively easily, but had a lot more trouble when he got caught in the middle of the biggest gang war since **the Kingpin-Schemer** battle two years before! **Dr. Octopus** was back—and locked in a power struggle with a new super-villain, **Hammerhead**, a '30's-style gangster with an impenetrable steel plate implanted in his head! Things kept going from bad to worse for Spider-Man during the gang war He came down with an ulcer! Doc Ock managed to tear off Spidey's mask, and while the web-slinger escaped with his secret identity intact, he was forced to break into a costume shop to get a cheap

A MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Want to buy some of the great issues we discussed in this article? Here's what you can expect to pay for them at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source for these prices is *Overstreet's Update* #4, the latest supplement to **Robert Overstreet's** *The Comic Book Price Guide*. But remember, prices may vary, and they should be even lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

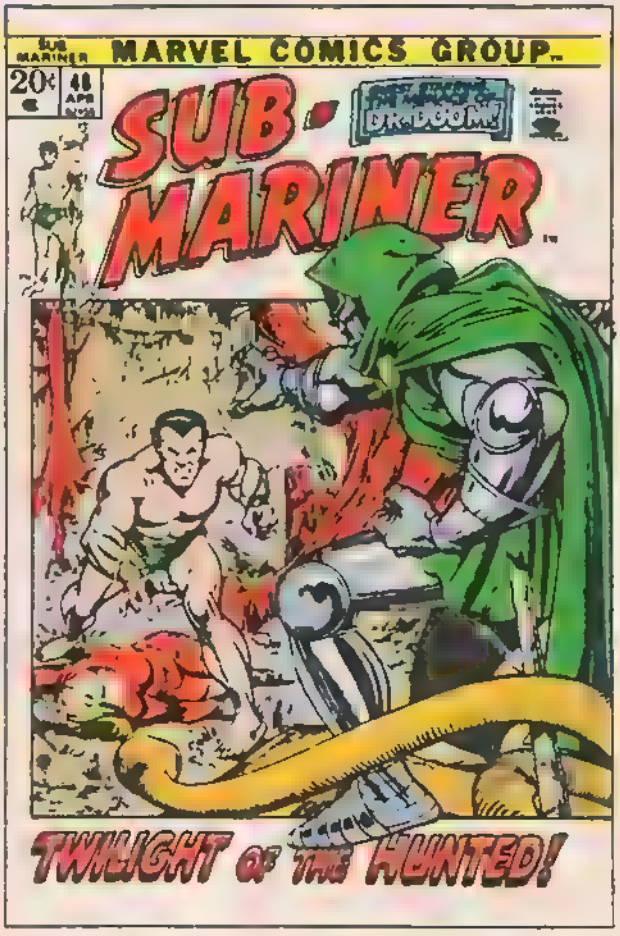
	Conditions: Good	Fine	Mint
Shanna the She-Devil			
1		.40	.80
The Amazing Spider-Man			
104–112, 115	.50	1.50	3.00
113–114—**Jim Starlin** backgrounds	.60	1.80	3.60
Sub-Mariner			
45–49		.40	.80
50–56		.30	.60

replacement! And when Spidey broke into Ock's headquarters, he was knocked unconscious by the woman Ock loved—none other than **Aunt May**! Eventually, Spidey captured Ock (although Hammerhead escaped), but after all he'd been through, he didn't feel too triumphant.

The Sub-Mariner's first triumph of the year was also marred with tragedy. After months of searching (with some help from **the Human Torch** and **the Sting-Ray**), Namor finally found his father, **Captain Leonard MacKenzie**! But within minutes of the reunion, Capt. MacKenzie was killed by Namor's old foes, **Tiger Shark** and **Llyra**! The shock of his father's death caused Namor to lose his memory, and he didn't regain it until after he became the pawn of **Dr. Doom** and battled **Modok**, the master of **A.I.M.**! The story climaxed in SUB-MARINER #50, an issue which proved to be a milestone in many ways. Not only was it the issue in which Namor regained his memory, not only did it introduce **Namorita**, the teen-age daughter of Namor's cousin Namora, not only did it complete the family reunion by re-introducing Namor's evil cousin **Prince Byrrah**, but it featured the return of master writer-artist **Bill Everett**, the man who'd created Namor in MARVEL COMICS #1 in 1939! Bill was back with a vengeance, guiding Namor through one thrilling adventure after another! Namor battled the solar-powered mutant (and future X-Man) **Sunfire**, who'd been duped by the fiendish **Dragon-Lord**! He defeated **Torg, the Abominable Snow-King**! And most daring of all, he convinced Namorita to stay with his old friend **Betty Dean Prentiss** and go to school! It was easy to see what made Bill one of the greats of the Golden Age!

There are lots of Silver Age greats for us to cover, too, but it looks like we're out of room, so we'll have to hold off until next issue. Next time around, we'll finish our look at Marvel '72 as the spotlight shifts to . . . (gulp!) monsters! See you then!

—Shelly Fisch



DUM DEE DUM DUMM

Send your letters to MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group,
387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016

This month's title was suggested by *Eric Marino* of the Bronx, NY. All we can really say about choosing it over the others is this: It's got a good beat and you can dance to it.

Congratulations, Eric. And as usual, we'd like to remind everyone else to send your suggestions for letters page titles to us. We use one a month, regular like clockwork, and if they don't keep coming in, we're going to be left high and dry. You wouldn't want that, would you?

Dear Marvel,

I recently read in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE that there will be a new title called THE MISFITS. It sounds like a good idea, except isn't someone missing? What about **Boom Boom**, the mutant from SECRET WARS II #5? She's perfect. She's a mutant and she's a runaway—isn't that what THE MISFITS is about? She also wouldn't be bad in THE NEW MUTANTS. Don't just forget about her, do something with her. If you don't do anything fast, the entire Boom Boom Fan Club may be forced to boycott something (we're not sure what yet). Just because there are only two members doesn't mean we're not influential.

Jeremy E. Myer
Self-appointed Chairman
and Official Letter Writer
of the Boom Boom Fan Club
2201 Gilpin Ave.
Wilmington, DE 19806

We checked with FALLEN ANGELS' (that's what MISFITS is being called) scribe *Jo Duffy*, *Jeremy*, who says, "I couldn't agree with you more!" Boom Boom is already slated to join the Fallen Angels, where she'll fit right in—at least as much as anyone can fit into a group like that. Plus, Boom Boom will make an explosive guest appearance in X-FACTOR #10, much to the chagrin of *Jean Grey*.

We hope that'll keep you from boycotting anything!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I'm fourteen years old and have been reading comics for as long as I can remember. And personally, I think you guys are the greatest!!!!

I'd do anything to write for my favorite comics (I may be only fourteen but I think I can write fairly well). I'd love to write for my favorite titles like POWER PACK, THE X-MEN, THE WEST COAST AVENGERS and the SPIDER-MAN titles.

By the way, I think you guys owe me a no-prize. Listen why: In MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #29, **James Pion** wrote and asked if G.I. JOE was part of the Marvel Universe. You responded, "No, James, the elite anti-terrorist group we fondly refer to as **the Joes** exists in some private universe of their own, well apart from the Marvel Universe." But in G.I. JOE #27, we see **Snake-Eyes** chasing **Cobra Ninja** down a crowded street. A little child sees the two and remarks, "Moon Knight!" upon seeing Cobra Ninja.

Well, gentlemen, what's your excuse? How would this child know about Moon Knight if Moon Knight doesn't even exist in his universe?

Jeff Rudd
1806 Terry St.
Pocatello, ID 83201

How do *you* know about Moon Knight?

Dear Marvelmen,

I think I've solved the question on who's been going around killing people and saying, "Justice is served." In the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #1, page 24, there is a black guy shooting **the Phone Ranger** and he's saying "Justice is served." I think this man is our culprit.

Nicky Isasi
4135 Gloria Rd.
Bethpage, NY 11714

Well, yes and no. That was the self-proclaimed *Scourge of the Underworld* acing the Phone Ranger, but the Scourge was merely *disguised* as former Romita's Raider and current freelance penciler *James Fry* (probably to get into the office unchallenged). That wasn't the Scourge's true face.

Dear Marvel,

As long as the self-proclaimed Scourge of the Underworld continues to serve justice, perhaps he (or she) should get to some or all of the following individuals: **The Kingpin. Doctor Octopus. The Wrecker. The Wizard. Crime-Buster. Kraven** (as was attempted in WEST COAST AVENGERS #3). **The Rose. Jack O'Lantern. The Viper. The Ringmaster.**

Justice has been long overdue to these people. Well, keep up the good work, Scourge. After all, **Charles Bronson** can't do it all!

Iggy McCullough
5708 Kennedy St.
Riverdale, MD 20737

Crime-Buster? You think justice for Crime-Buster is long overdue? Aw, c'mon, Ig, the poor guy's only appeared once (twice if you count the MARVEL AGE ANNUAL). Aren't you being just a tad harsh?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

In several issues of Marvel Comics, I have noticed comics shops with covers of issues showing past adventures of various heroes or groups, or even stories with heroes visiting the Marvel building itself. I think that Marvel comics and the Marvel offices should not appear in your comics, because villains can simply read the comics in order to discover things like the hero's secret identity, or **J. Jonah Jameson** can discover who **Spider-Man** and other heroes are and reveal it to the world, and thugs could blackmail the heroes! Please tell me the solution to this problem.

Jason Doucette
28 Meyers St.
Belleville, Ontario
Canada K8N 2N7

Since the writers and artists of the Marvel comics published in the Marvel Universe obviously don't know things like Spider-Man's secret identity, such facts are not *in* the comics you mention. They probably stick pretty much to known or supportable facts about the heroes' adventures (much like TRUE DETECTIVE does with real police cases) and have little or no personal material.

If you want to learn more about Marvel comics in the Marvel Universe, we suggest looking at CAPTAIN AMERICA. *Cap* is currently penciling the CAPTAIN AMERICA book for Marvel, and various Marvel editorial personnel are practically regular characters by now.

Dear MARVEL AGEr,

I'd like to ask you to bring back MOON KNIGHT. I want you to do this because it was one of my favorite comics and was probably many other people's favorite too. I was glad when you guys came out with the new series, but when you canceled it, I was really mad!!

Ending ROM, THE DEFENDERS, POWER MAN AND IRON FIST, DAZZLER, THE MICRONAUTS, THE THING and especially MOON KNIGHT was the most stupidest thing you have ever done!!!! I liked all those titles.

I liked the writing and drawing in those titles. I thank the people who put together those titles and ask them if they could try to bring them back. I also ask the people making THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION if

they could include them as either retired or active characters.

Ryan Taylor
20 Coleridge Rd.
Nashua, NH 03062

How do *you* know about Moon Knight?

Seriously, *Ryan*, the fact that those series have been canceled doesn't affect THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. If the characters would have appeared while their series were running, they'll appear even though their series are canceled. (In other words, don't expect to see *the Micronauts*, but the others will be there.)

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

In the PUNISHER Limited Series, on issue #1 you say "#1 in a Four-Issue Limited Series," and on #2 you say "#2 in a Five-Issue Limited Series." Which one is it?

Jimmy Hubbard
301 Caroline St.
Fredericksburg, VA

Okay, we've gotten hundreds of letters about that little slip-up, so here's the official word. THE PUNISHER was a *three*-issue Limited Series. Anyone who has copies of the fourth or fifth issues is requested to destroy them, as they do not actually exist. Thank you.

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Okay you guys, I'm serious. How about making a **Spider-Boy** comic book? Or a Limited Series?

David Castro
Juan F. Acosta HT-2
Levittown, PR 00950

Okay, *David*, we're serious too. No.

Dear Editor,

Now that the "Wolverine's Bones" craze has been officially established, I feel compelled to ask you something. I really hope you print this, because I'm sure a lot of other readers want to know. Can Wolverine's claws cut through **Tigra's** bikini? I mean, after all the fights she's been in that I've seen her in, it has never fallen off, and that makes me wonder. Maybe you should distribute suits made out of that material for people with non-defensive powers, like **Bruce Banner, Cypher** and other people who see a lot of action. Thanks for listening.

Kevin Lane
1735 W. Cedar St.

Now wait a minute, *Kevin*. Are you trying to tell us that Bruce Banner's pants or Cypher's costume keeps *falling off?* This is terrible!

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I just wanted to write to tell you that I really enjoy reading your comics, and I wanted to ask you a question. Where does the original art go after it has been used in the printing process? Does one of the artists get it, or do you keep it locked away in some special vault?

Derek Barnes
30 Hughes St.
Regina, Sask.
Canada S4X 1G9

When the art comes back from the printer, it's sorted and returned to the artists who worked on it. This arduous task is handled by Lethiferous *Len Kaminski* (*Virginia Romita's* able assistant) and Hairy *Harry Eisenstein*. You may have noticed Len's writing popping up in places such as THE TRANSFORMERS and the Spider-Man books as well.

Dear Marvel,

Today, when I picked up MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #37, the first thing I did was look for the calendar on the back of the mag. It wasn't there. It wasn't *anywhere*.

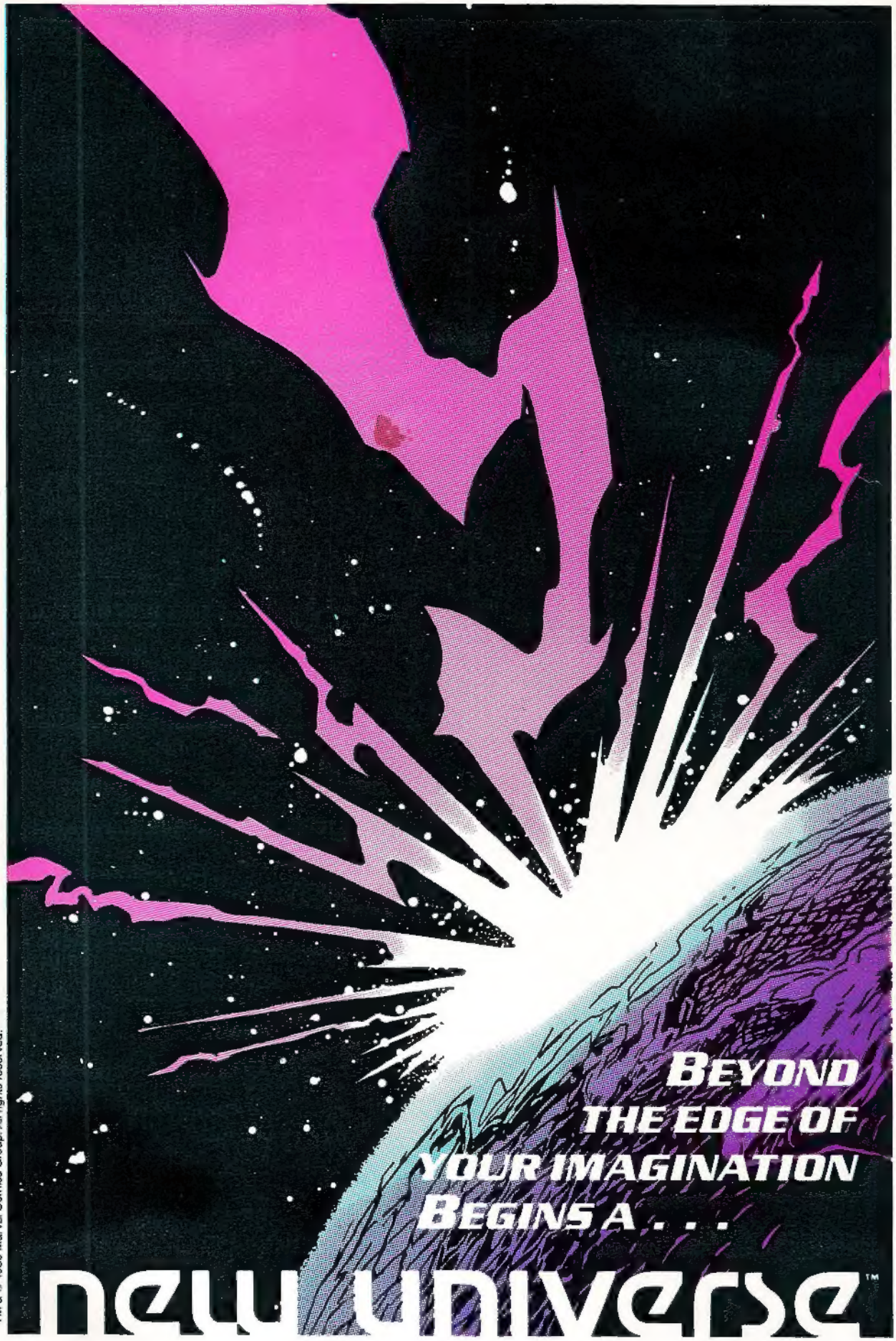
Please tell me that this was an oversight. The calendar is my favorite part of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. I like it even more than *Hembeck's Page!*

Lynn Tucker
Las Vegas, NV

The MARVEL AGE Calendar was discontinued, *Lynn*, since there was a widely-distributed 1986 Marvel Calendar, and we felt that two calendars would be redundant. Still, *Jim* and *Ron* are preparing a new back cover feature that we're sure you'll enjoy!

And now, guess what? That's right—you can probably guess from how close these words are to the bottom right-hand corner of the page that this letters column is just about to end. And guess when?

That's right—now.



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HOWARD
THE DUCK